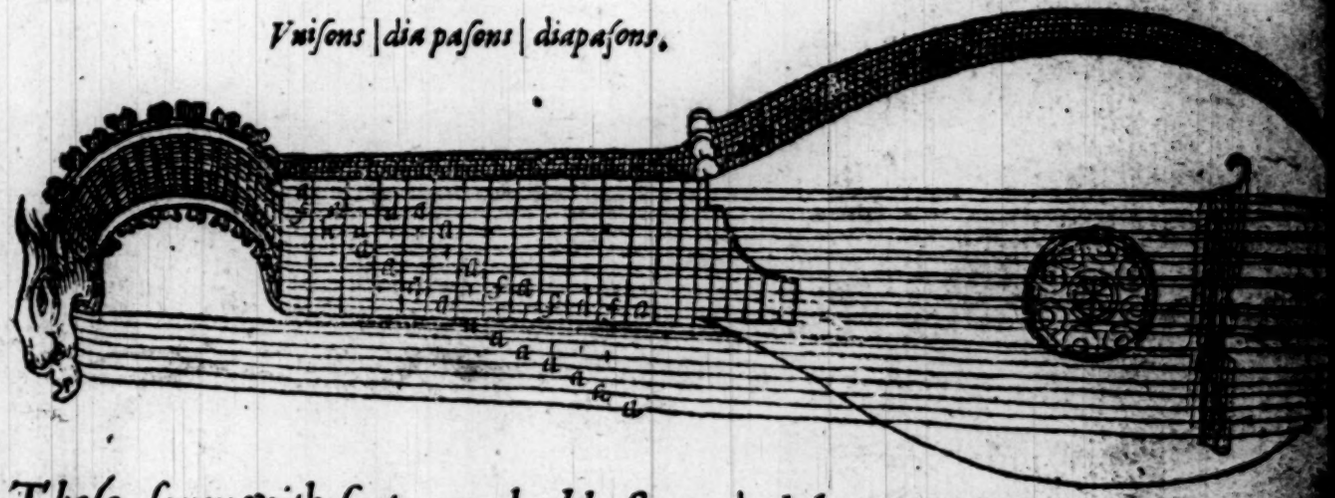
NEW CITHAREN LESSONS,

With perfect Tunings of the ſame, from Foure *courſe of Strings to Fourteene courſe, euen to trie the* ſharpeſt teeth of Enuie, with Leſſons of all ſortes, and methodicall Inſtructions for all Profeſſors and Practitioners of the CITHAREN.

By THOMAS ROBINSON, Student in all the *ſeuen liberall Scienees.*

The tuning of the Citharen with fourteene courſe of ſtrings.



Theſe ſeuen with frets are double ſtrung | al the other ſingle | twiſted.

LONDON
Printed by *William Barley*, and are to be ſold at his Shop in Gracious-ſtreete. 1609.
Cum Priuilegio.

45

3

22

TO THE RIGHT HONOVRABLE, SIR WILLIAM CECIL, Vicount Cranborne, Sonne and Heire *to the Right Honourable the Earle of* SALISBVRIE, and Knight of the Honourable order of the Bathe, *Thomas Robinſon* wiſheth all happineſſe, with the increaſe of all true Honour and Vertue.

Alking in my Garden of good will (Right Honourable,) I could find no better Flowers, then thoſe that ſpring from faithful Loue, bound with the bond of dutie, to make my labours gracious in your thoughts. Loue to your Honour, ſprung from the roote of your Lord and Grandfathers bountifull and moſt Honourable kindneſſe towards my Father, who was (vntill his dying day) his true and obedient Seruant. Duetie bindeth me, for that I was my ſelfe ſometimes Seruant vnto the

The Epistle Dedicatorie.

Right Honourable, THOMAS Earle of *Excester*, your Honours vncle, and alwaies haue tasted of the comfortable liberalitie, of your Honours Father; for whose sake (next vnder God) I craue your Honours Pardon, for this my bold attempt. Thus breeding (Right Honourable) as it were a protection from your Pardon: I most humbly leaue you to the Lord, and betake my selfe to my Prayers for your Honours health and prosperitie in all condigne dignitie.

Your Honours to commaund in all dutie.

Thomas Robinson.

To the Reader.

Entlemen, blame me not although I haue beene so long cracking of this nutte, sith at last I haue giuen you the sweetest Cornell of my conceited Cithering. For first, you shall haue strange lessons with strange tunings for the foure stringed Citharen, the like neuer found out before for sweetnes and goodnes to play (euen an organe kind of play) alone, also lessons for two to play together, & withall a third Citharen; (which inuention was first begun by an Italian in Italy, but altered, and strings augmented by me.) Containing fourteene course of strings: most full, sweete and easie, for the which Citharen, I must remaine a thankeful debter, and well willer to a most kind and louing Gentleman and scoller of mine, Master Edward Winne, *an attendant of the Right Honorable* ROBERT *Earle of Salisburie, now Lord high Treasurer of England. Thus not forgetting my selfe, in remembring my friend, I most louingly bid you all Adue.*

Your musicall friend

Thomas Robinson.

A nevv, easie, and perfect Introduction to the Citharen,

set foorth both for the learned and them which are vnlearned.

Scholler.

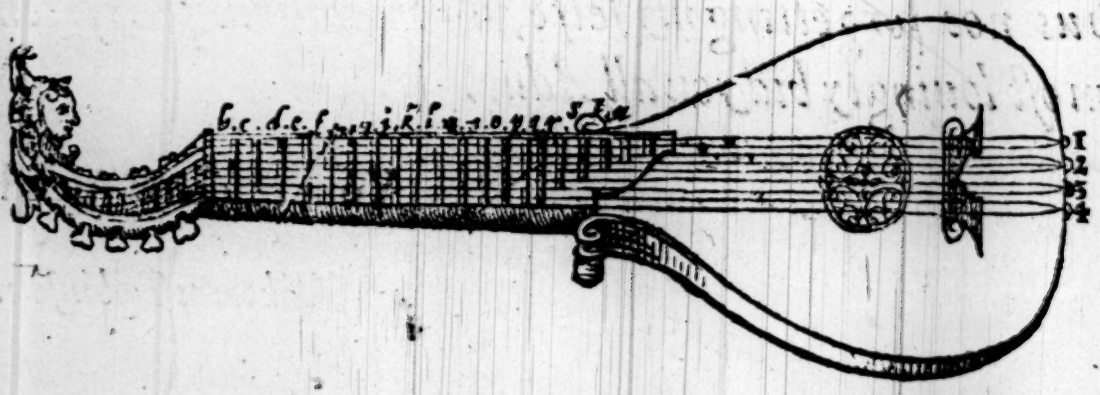
GOD giue you good morrow Sir, this is the howre and time, the which you appointed me to come and keepe, and truely sir, if it please God that I profit (according to your promise) by your good instructions, you shall not find me vnthankefull,

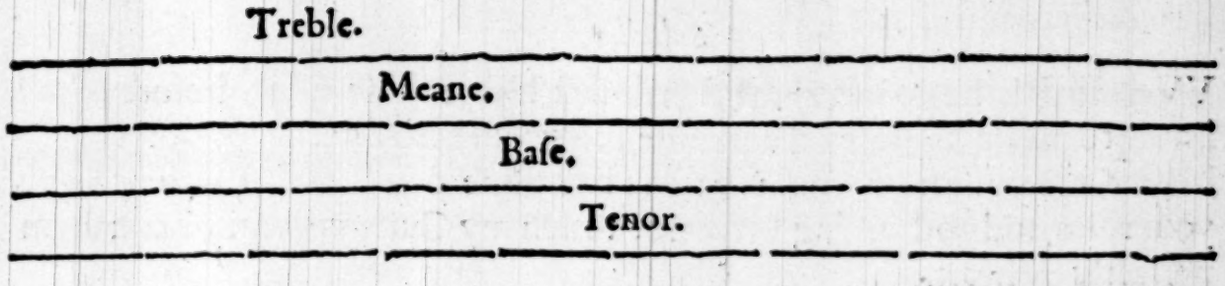
Master.

Welcome good Scholler, and truely I haue great hope in you, for that I see you so willing, and withall I see you haue allready laide hold of one of the best properties which doth belong to a Musitian, which is: to keepe time, likewise if your capacitie, be answerable to your desire, I doubt not but that you will quickly proue a good Scholler: come, where is your Citharen and your Booke.

Scholler.

Heere sir they bee both.





Master.

It is well done of you, you haue Gotten a very good Citharen, for it is both faire and good, true fretted, and easie to play vpon. Now in the name of God let vs beginne, and first marke, as your Citharen lyeth before you with his 4 course of strings, so likewise the 4 lines or rules in your booke lye accordingly, and represent the same strings as heere you see mentioned. And also, as the frettes or stoppes of yont Citharen extend the whole breadth of the necke of it called the finger boord: so euery string hath both the name and vse of the same fret one so well as the other, as if you stoppe in the first frette, (with your forefinger) in the treble, then it is *b* in the treble. if you stoppe the first frette in the meane, then it is *b* in the meane, and if you stoppe the first frette in the basse, then it is *b* in the basse, if you stoppe the first frette in the tenor, then it is *b* in the tenor, and so of the rest of the stoppes *c d e f* &c. but where you see *a* in any of the strings, that string must not be stopped, but must be stricken open.

Scholler.

Truely this is most plaine and easie, for a child of 4 yeeres of age that knoweth but his letters *a b c* may conceiue this as well as one of 20. yeeres old. But when shall I beginne to learne to play a lesson.

Master.

I will tell you when, euen then when you haue gotten all these rules following by heart without booke, and also can tune your instrument your selfe.

Scholler.

why? how if it be this month before I can them by heart? shall I not learne a lesson this month?

Master.

No, for to learne before you know what, why, and how: were like a Bee moyld in a barrell of honny, for how were it possible for you to play well? with a good grace? comely without making of anticke faces: except you first know a rule, or reason to guide your hand and body.

Well

Scholler.

VVell Sir, if it be your will that I ſhall firſt learne thoſe rules, before I ſhall learne to play a leſſon? I am contented to get them by heart, for you are my Maſter, and you know what is beſt to bee done for a Scholler, write downe your rules, and god willing I will not touch my Citharen, vntill I can them perfectly by heart.

Maſter.

I commend you, doe as you ſay, and vpon my life you ſhall very ſoone attaine to your deſire for the *Citharen*, for if you ſhould get falſe fingring at the firſt, you ſhould be conſtrained, firſt to learne to forget, before it were fit for you to remember, which were both a griefe, trouble, and loſſe of time and charges. Therefore in the name of God marke theſe rules following.

The firſt rule.

Note, that firſt, in ſtopping of your inſtrument, that you hold out the wriſt of your hand, for ſo you ſhall ſtoppe both the cleaner, and with more eaſe, be the readier to carry your whole hand too and fro at your pleaſure.

The ſecond rule.

Note, that where, or in what ſtop ſo euer you are ſtoppe d with your forefinger, that there, in the ſame ſtoppe you hold your thombe right ouer againſt it.

The third rule.

Note, that in what ſtoppe ſo euer you are ſtopped, that you plucke away no finger vntill you needes muſt.

The fourth rule.

Note, that in any full ſtoppe, that you reliſh with that finger that is moſt idleſt, and in a ſingle ſtoppe, with that finger that is the ſtrongeſt.

The fifth rule.

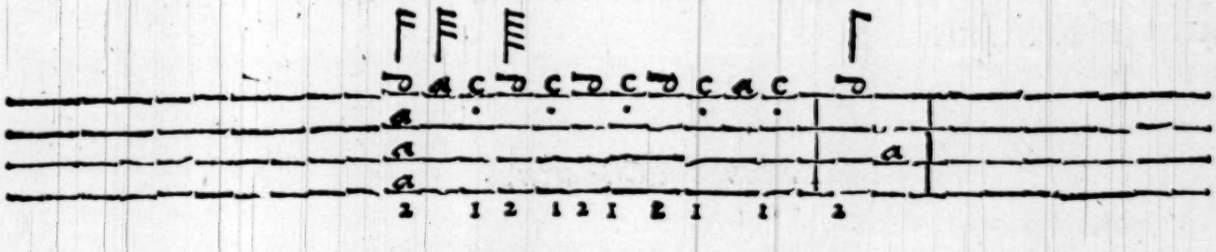
Note, that you doe not ſtriue with any ſtoppe, but doe it with eaſe, for painefull playing, cauſeth many odde anticke faces.

Note,

The sixt Rule.

Note, that in running of a point, where you leaue a stoppe, you leaue a finger, and where you leaue no stoppe, you leaue no finger.

As for example.



The seuenth Rule

Note that, that is said to be a point, when two of one time, foure or twice foure, all which goe by two and two, and the second is single, or all be single stoppes, as is aboue mentioned.

The eight Rule.

Note also, that the first of a point is to be strucken downward, and the second vpward, and for that purpose where you shall strike vpwardes, it is noted vnder the letter with a pricke or point, as you see aboue:

The Ninth Rule.

Note, that you stoppe cleane, and also strike cleane, in a full stroke plumpe together, not raking or scattering.

The tenth Rule.

Note that you leane vpon no finger, but the little finger of your right hand.

The eleuenth Rule.

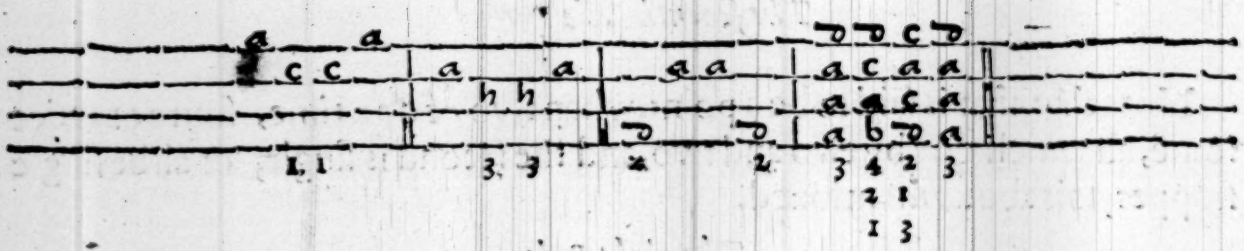
Note also, that you leane lightly vpon the Citharen with your right arme.

The twelfth Rule.

Note, that you keepe alwayes your hands cleane, and your nailes short.

These rules had perfectly without booke, you shall then learne to tune your *Citharen* as followeth. First, set vp your Trebles so hie as you dare venter for breaking, and let them be both of one tune or sound, then set vp your Menes, stopping them in *(c)* making them in *(c)* to agree with the Trebles in *(a)* open all in one sound, then set vp the Base, stopping it in *(b)* making it agree with the Menes all in one tune; then lastly set vp the outermost stringes called the Tenor, stopping it in *(d)* making it agree with the Menes in *(a)* open all in one sound; this done, your *Citharen* will be in tune ready for you to learne a lesson.

To tune the Citharen.



Scholler.

Truely sir, I like these Rules very well, and God willing I will not rest vntill I haue them perfectly by heart, but I pray you what signifie those figures vnderneath the stoppes.

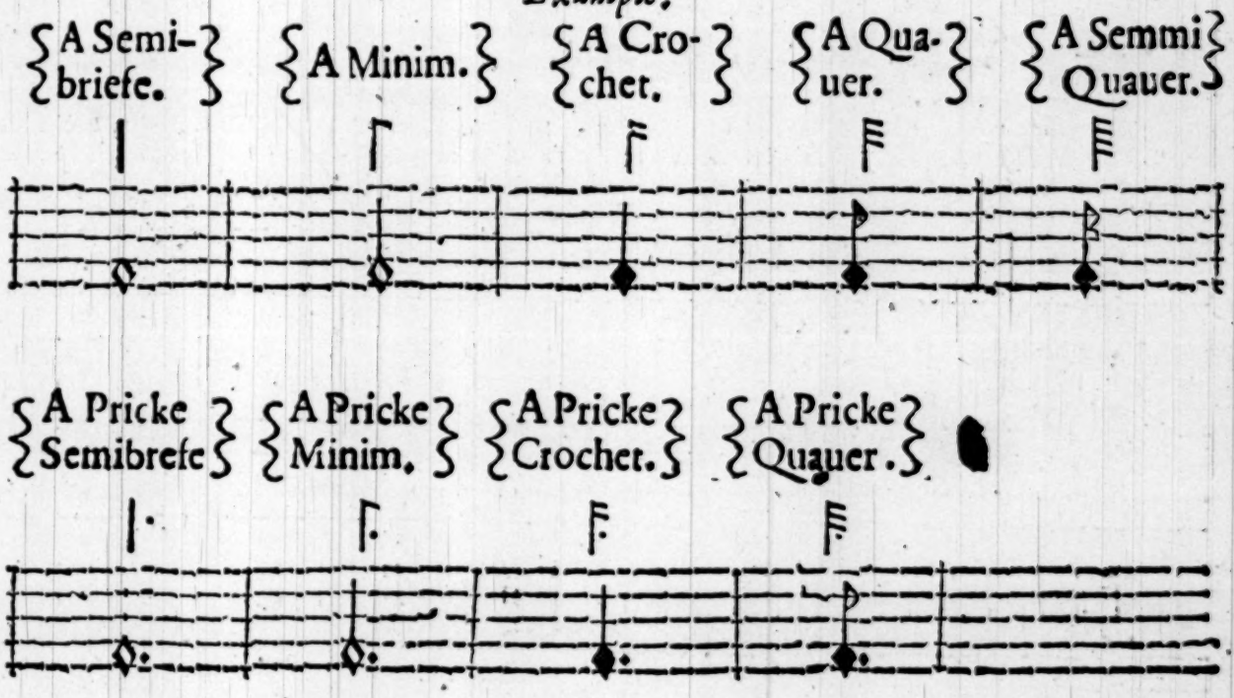
Master.

They signifie with what fingers you shall stoppe, as thus: the figure of one thus noted 1. is for the forefinger, the figure of two thus noted 2. is for the second finger, the figure of three thus noted 3. is for the third finger, and the figure of foure thus noted 4. is for the little finger, and looke vnder what letter any of these figures stands at, that letter is to be stopped with that finger which that figure doth represent, and so many letters as stand one right vnder another must be stricken all together, and so the vppermost letter shall haue the vppermost figure, and so the next letter vnder, the next figure vnder, and so the rest. Now followeth the times either long time or short.

This

This figure here vnder placed, will instruct thee more plainely, concerning the valuation of the said notes, the Characters being expressed by the notes of Musicke thereunto adioyned.

Example.



Scholler.

I thanke you sir, all this I see is both good and necessary, and now, when it pleaseth you, set mee some lessons I pray you, for I find my selfe very ready and very happy to meet with so good a Tutor.

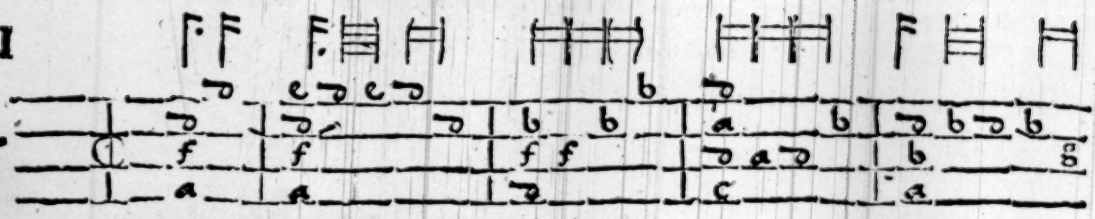
Master.

Now you find my words true, that without these Rules it had beene impoissble for you to haue profited any thing at all, and now I will God willing set you downe some lessons fit for you to learne, and so harder and harder, and that better and better.

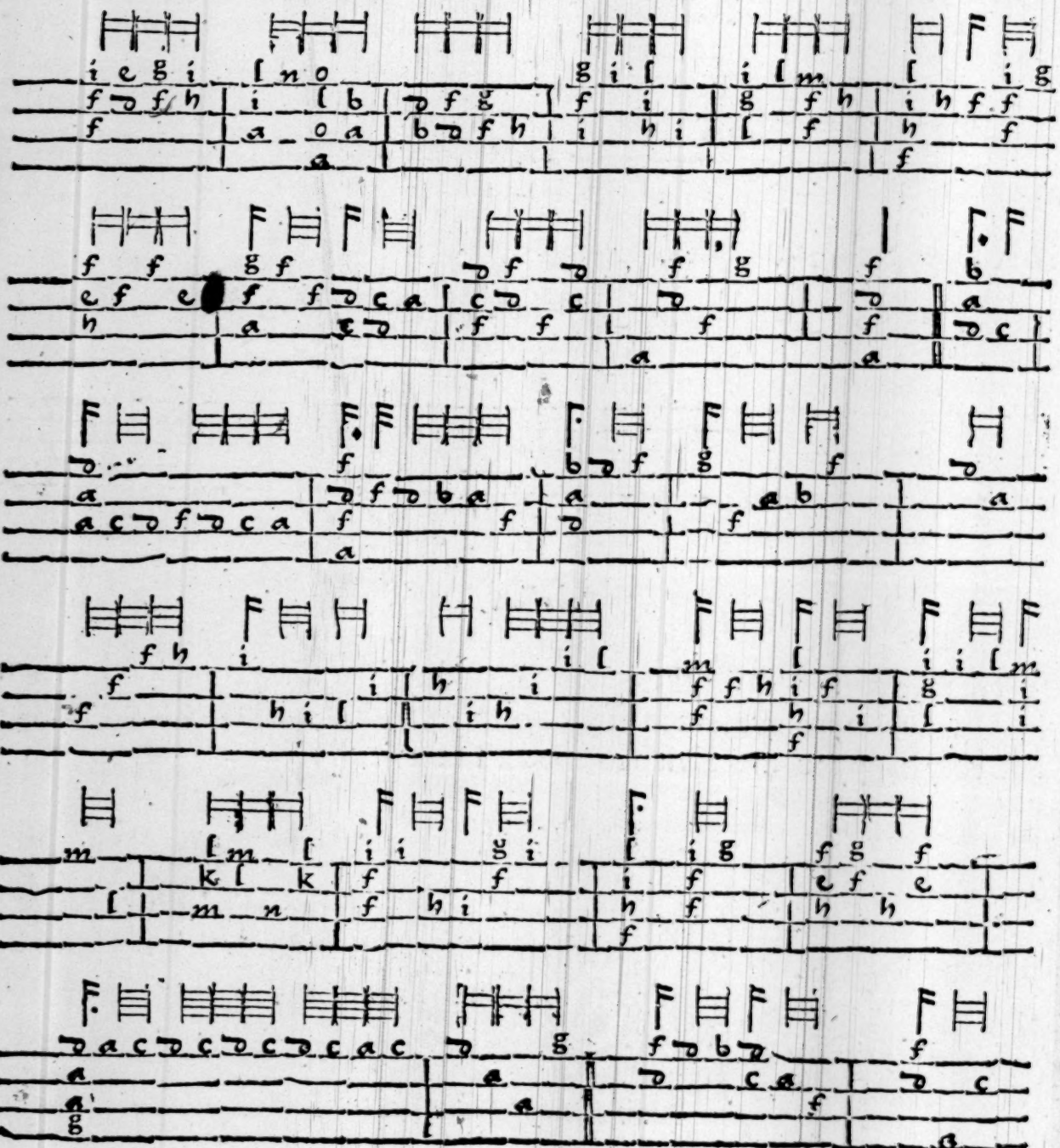
Finis Thomas Robinson.

For the Citharen.

1



MY Lord Treaſurer his Pauen.



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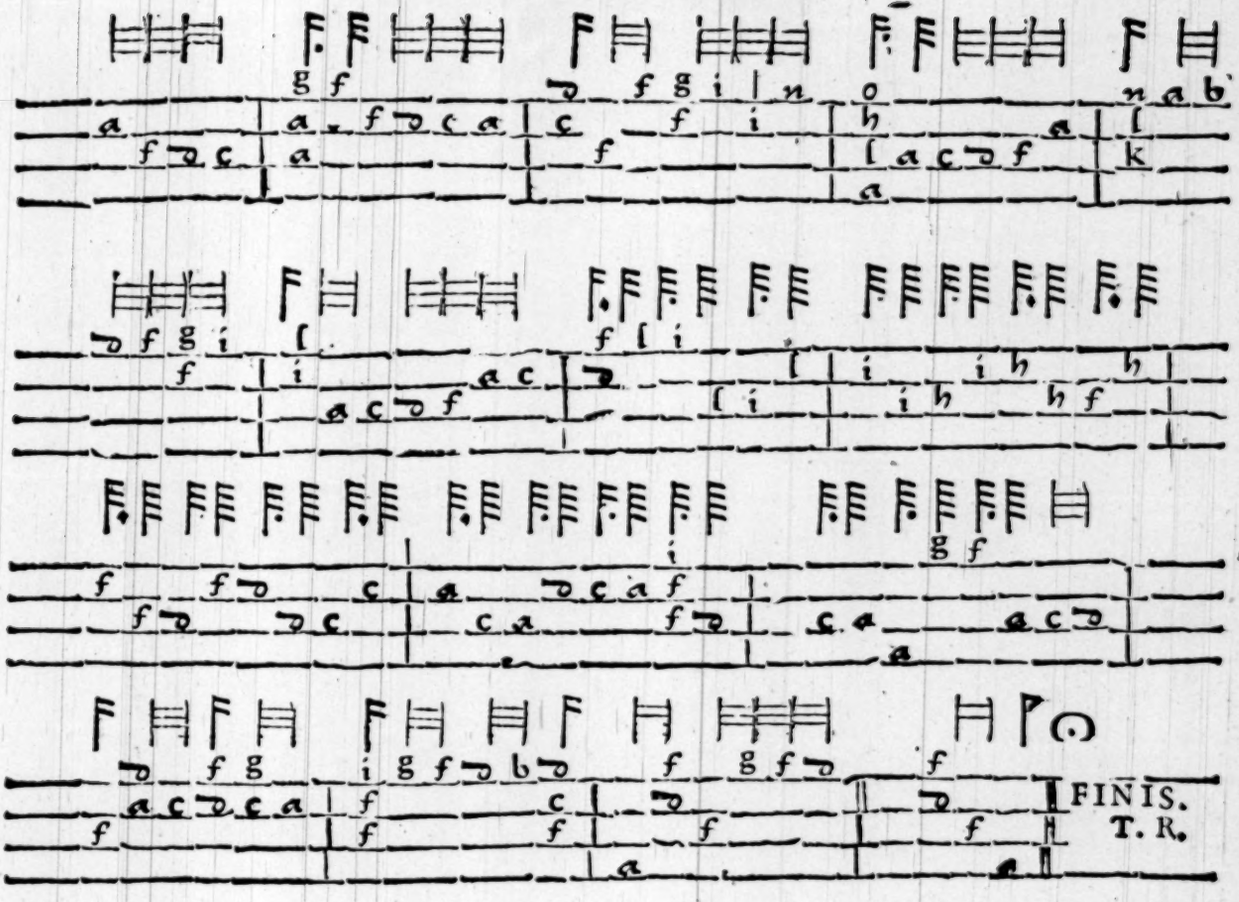

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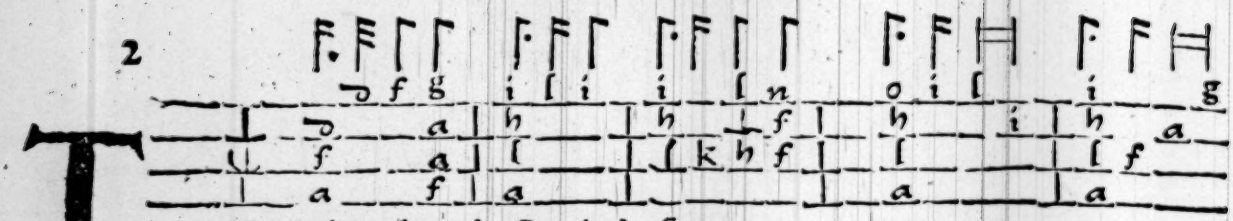

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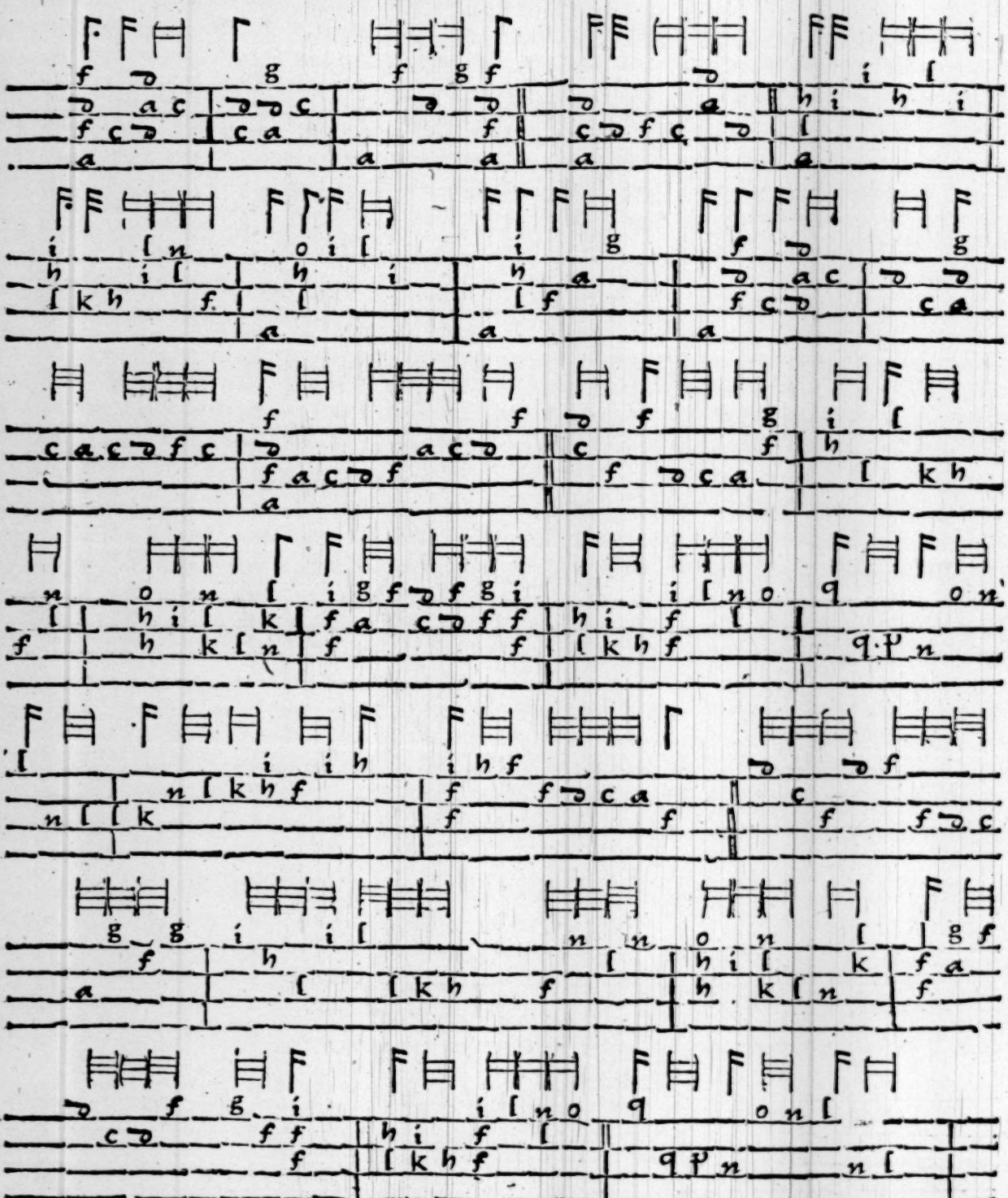

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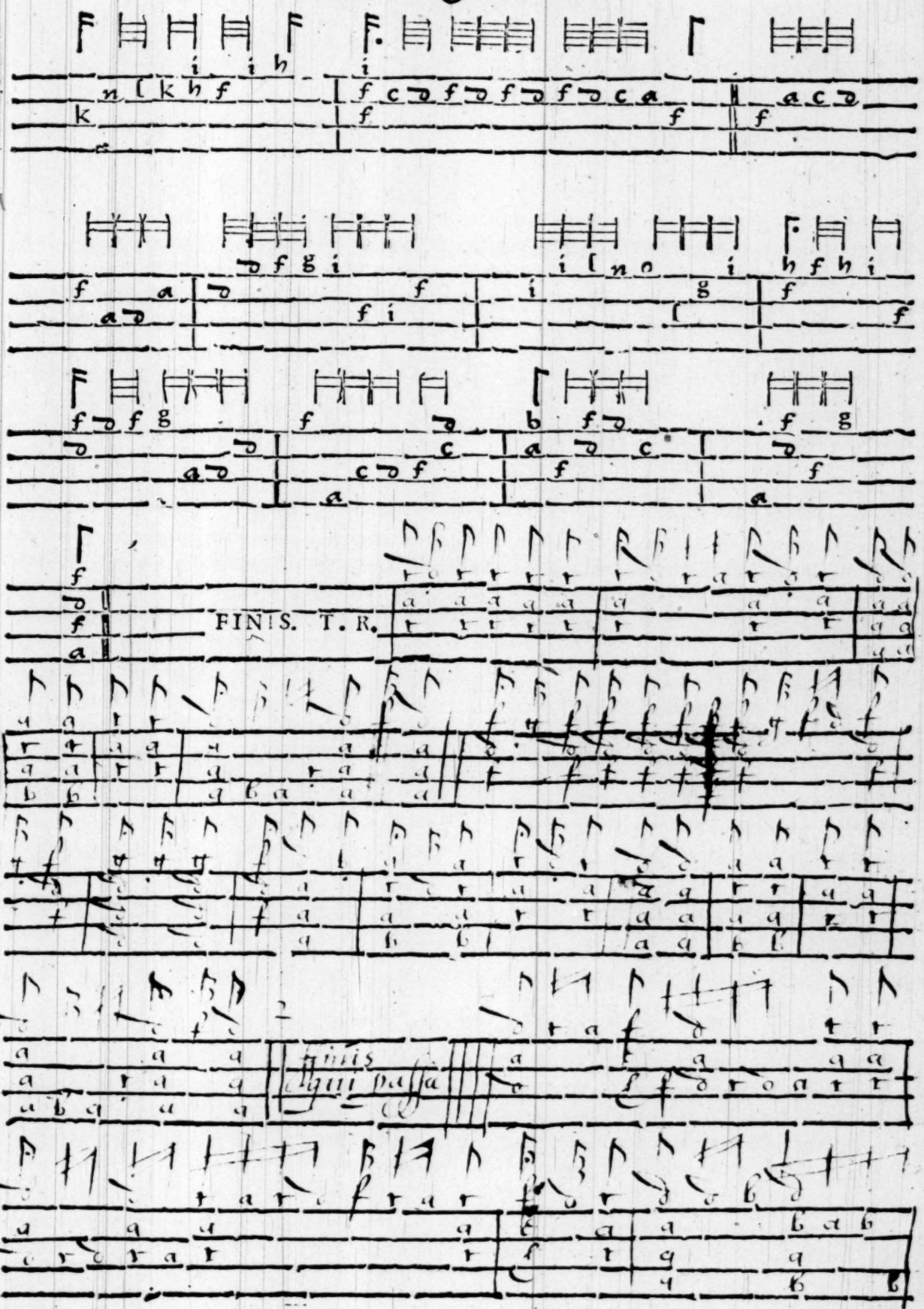

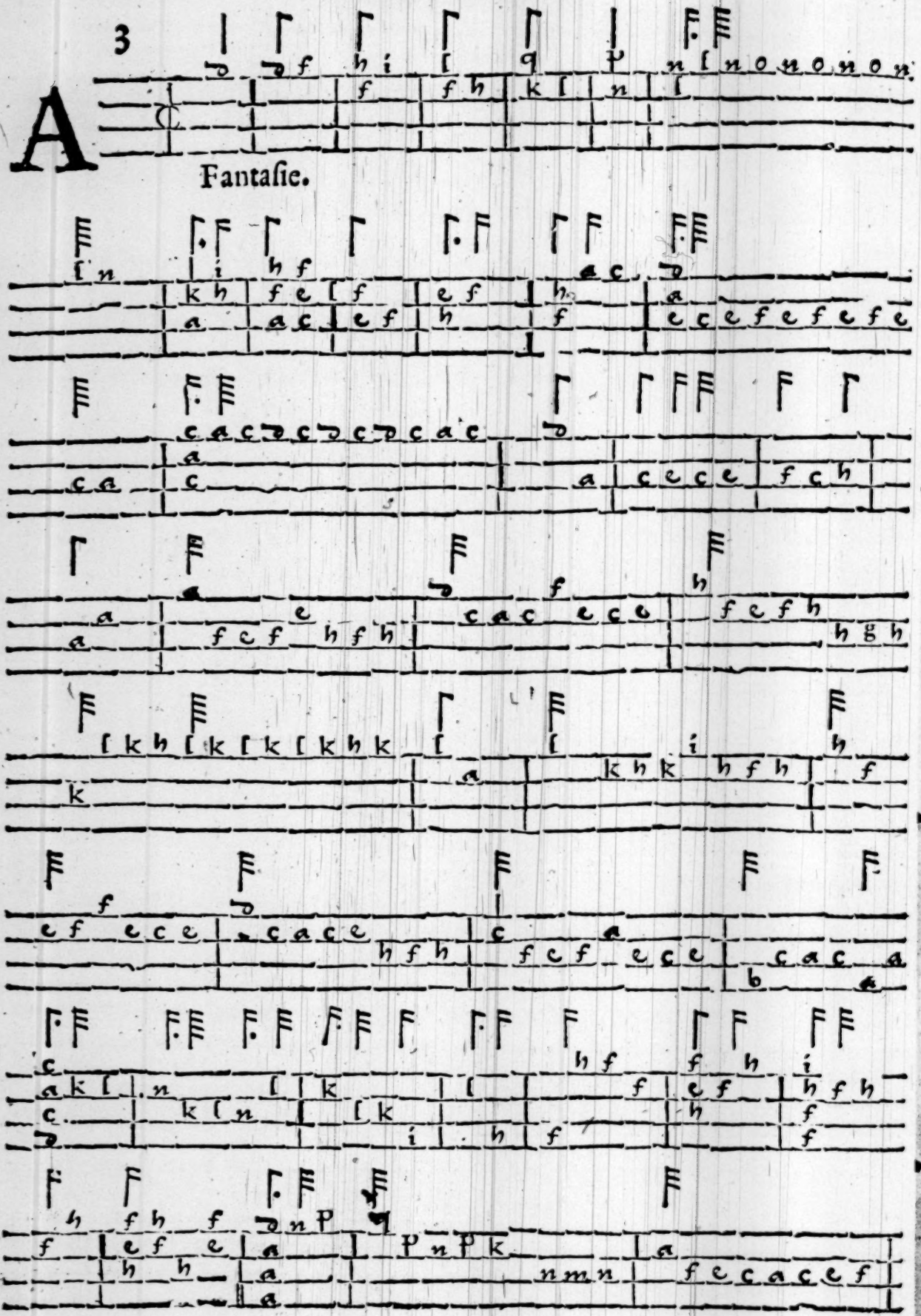
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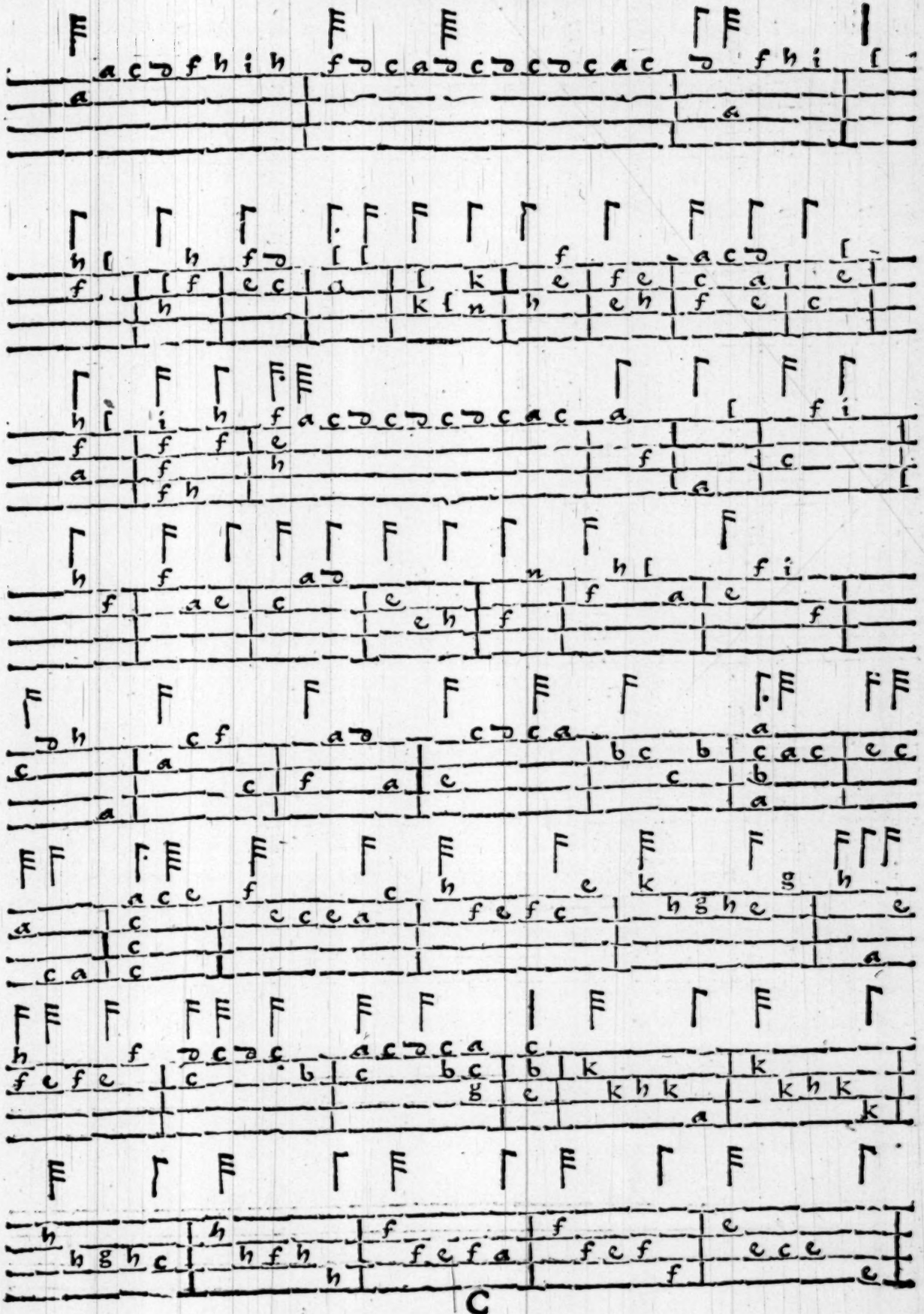
Fantasie.

For the Citharen.



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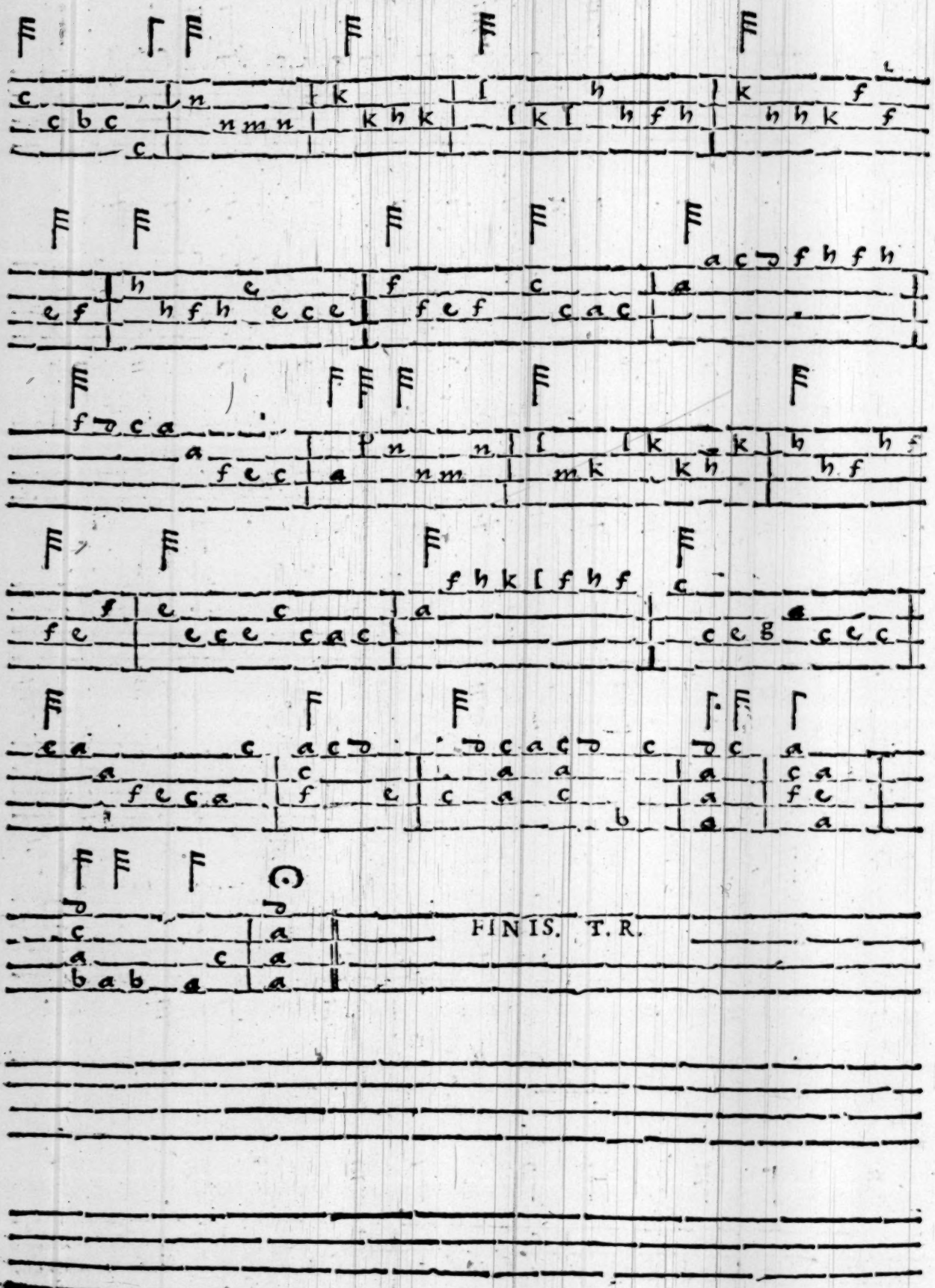

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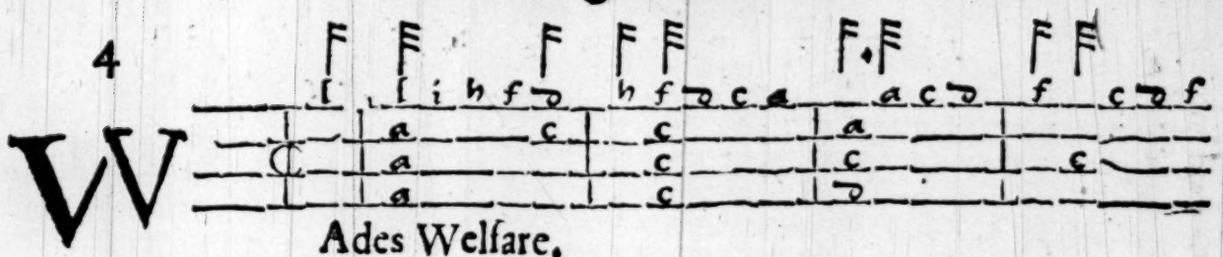

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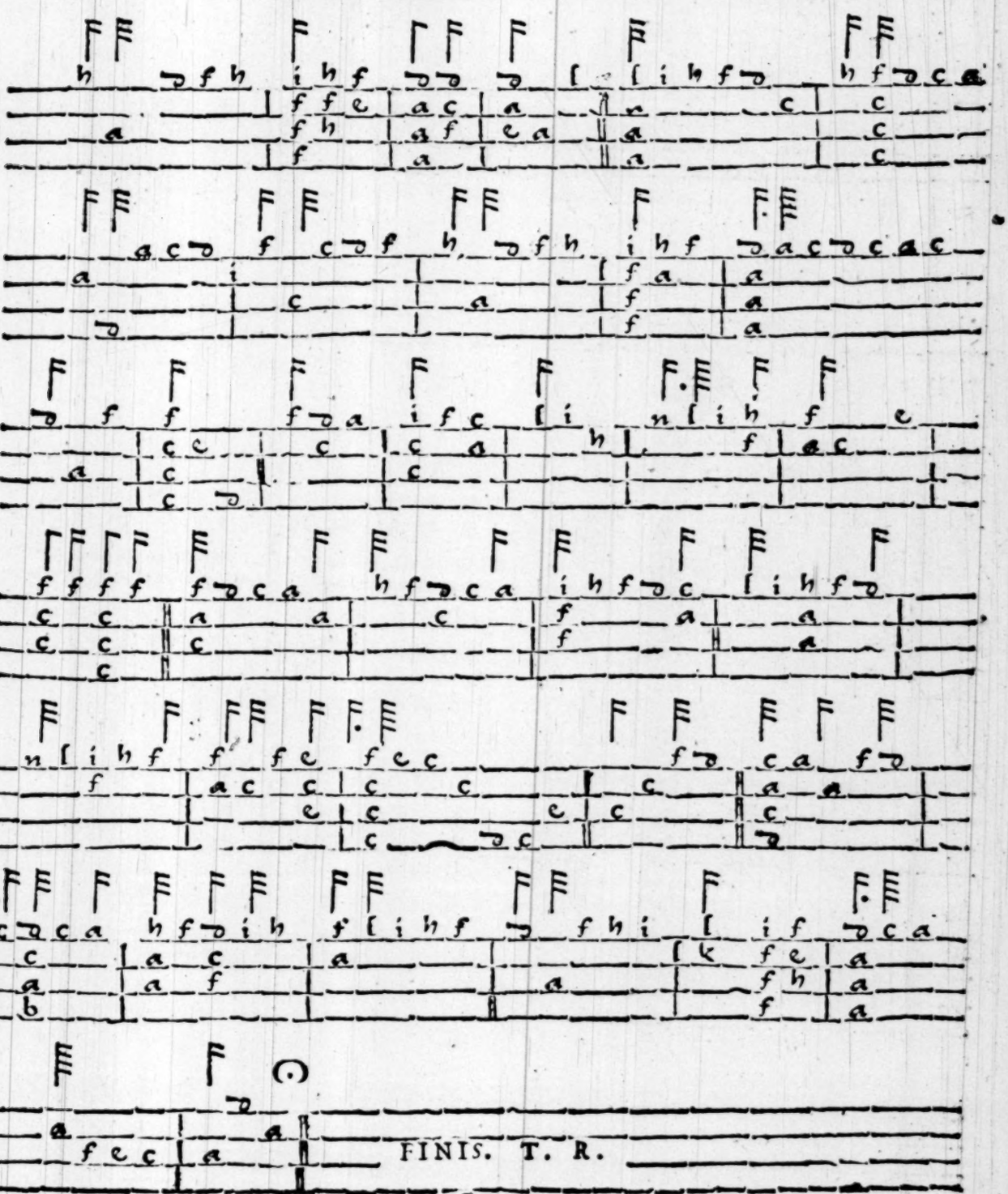

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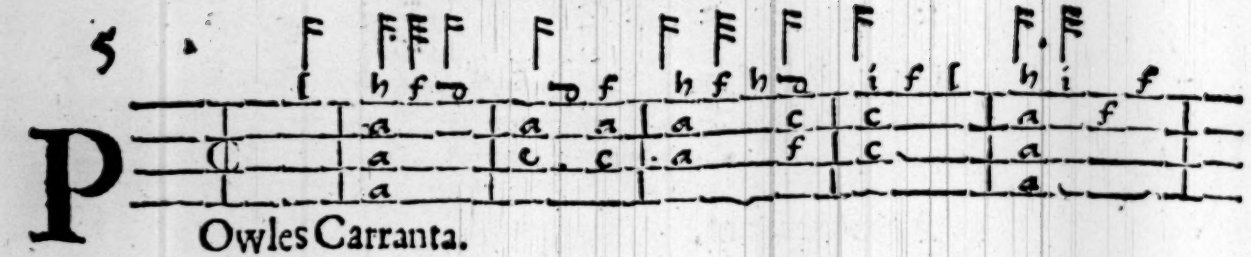

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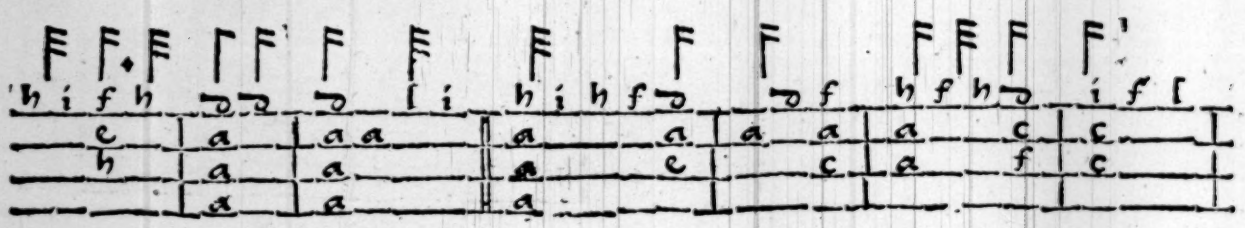

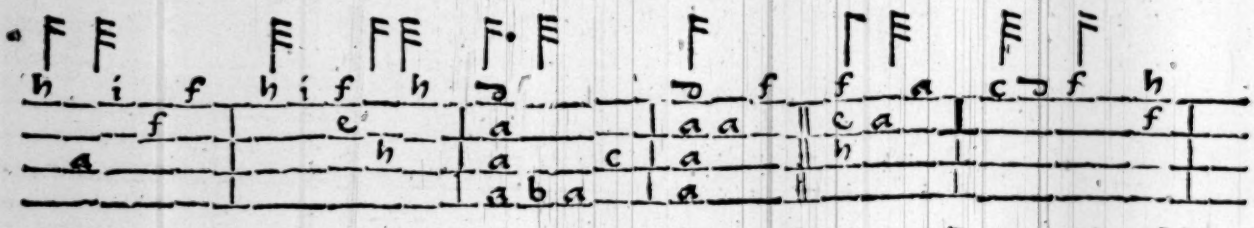

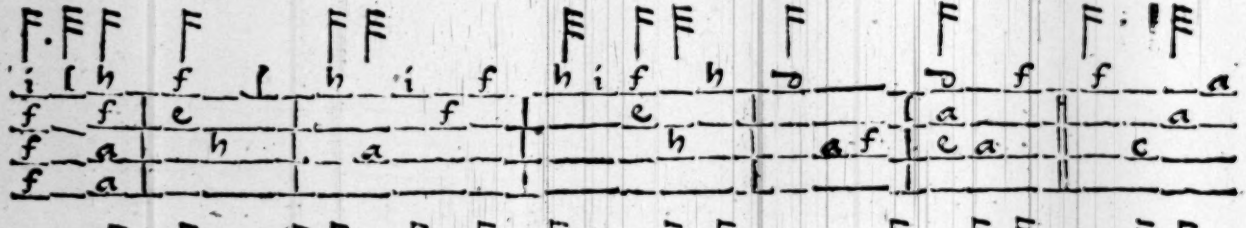

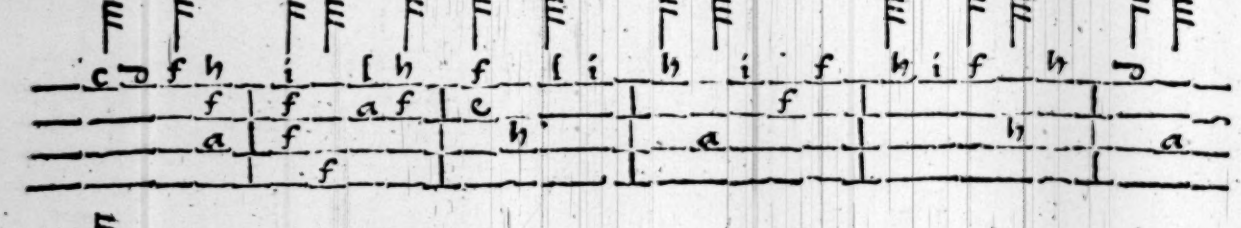

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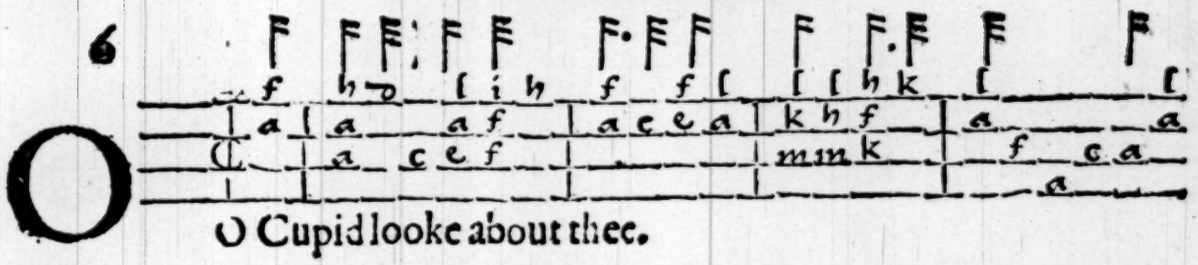
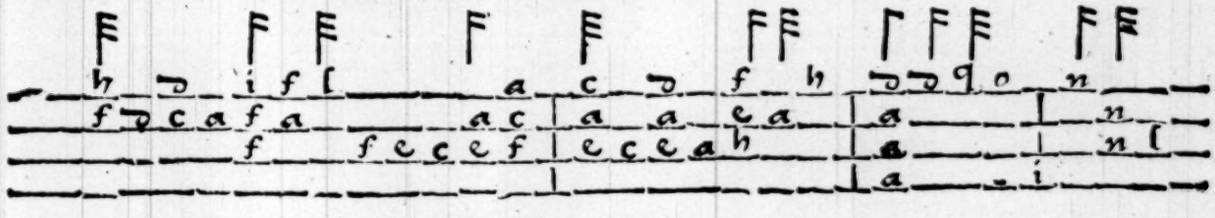


O Cupid looke about thee.



FINIS. T.R

For two Citherens in the vniſon.

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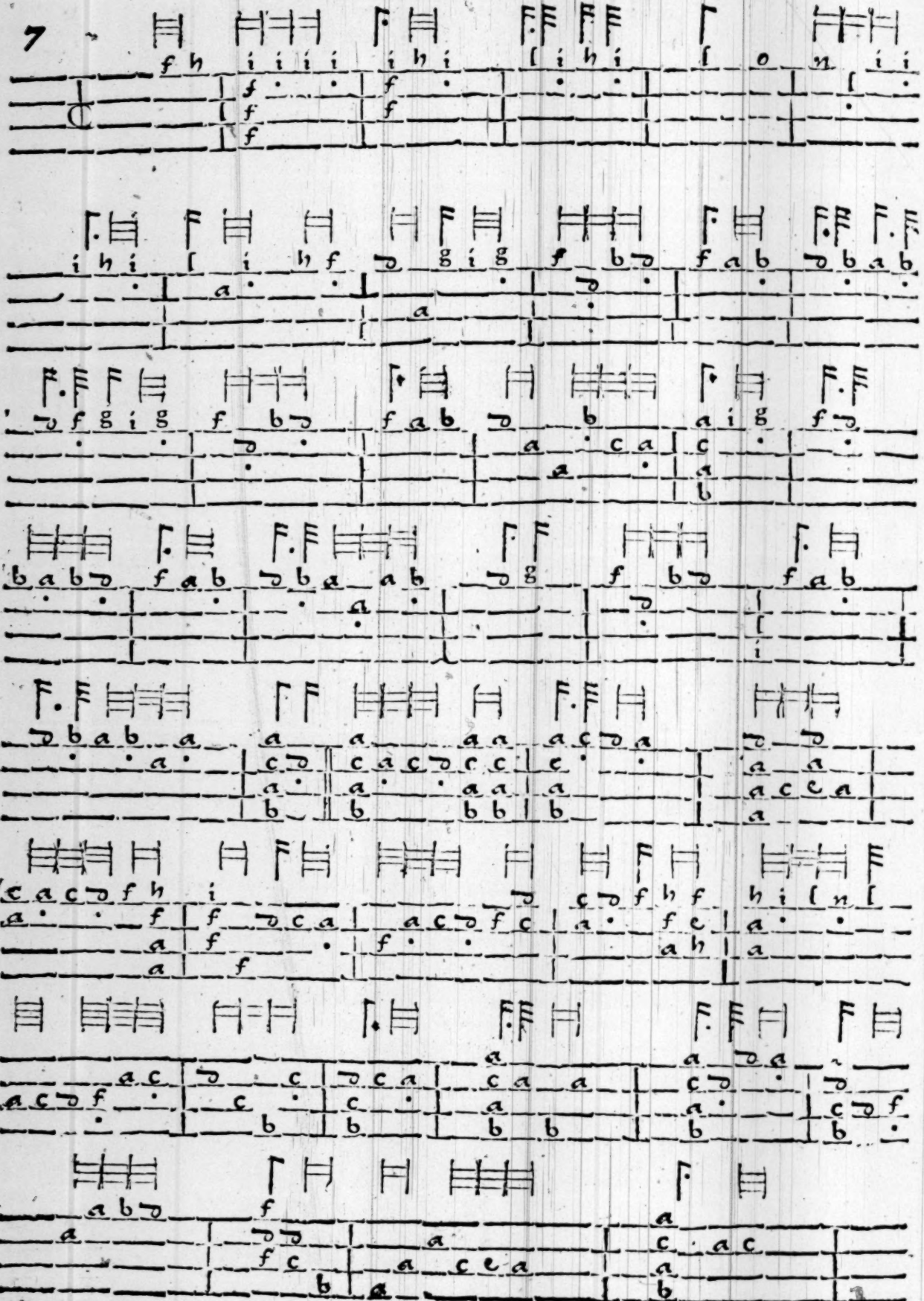

For two Citherens in the vnison.

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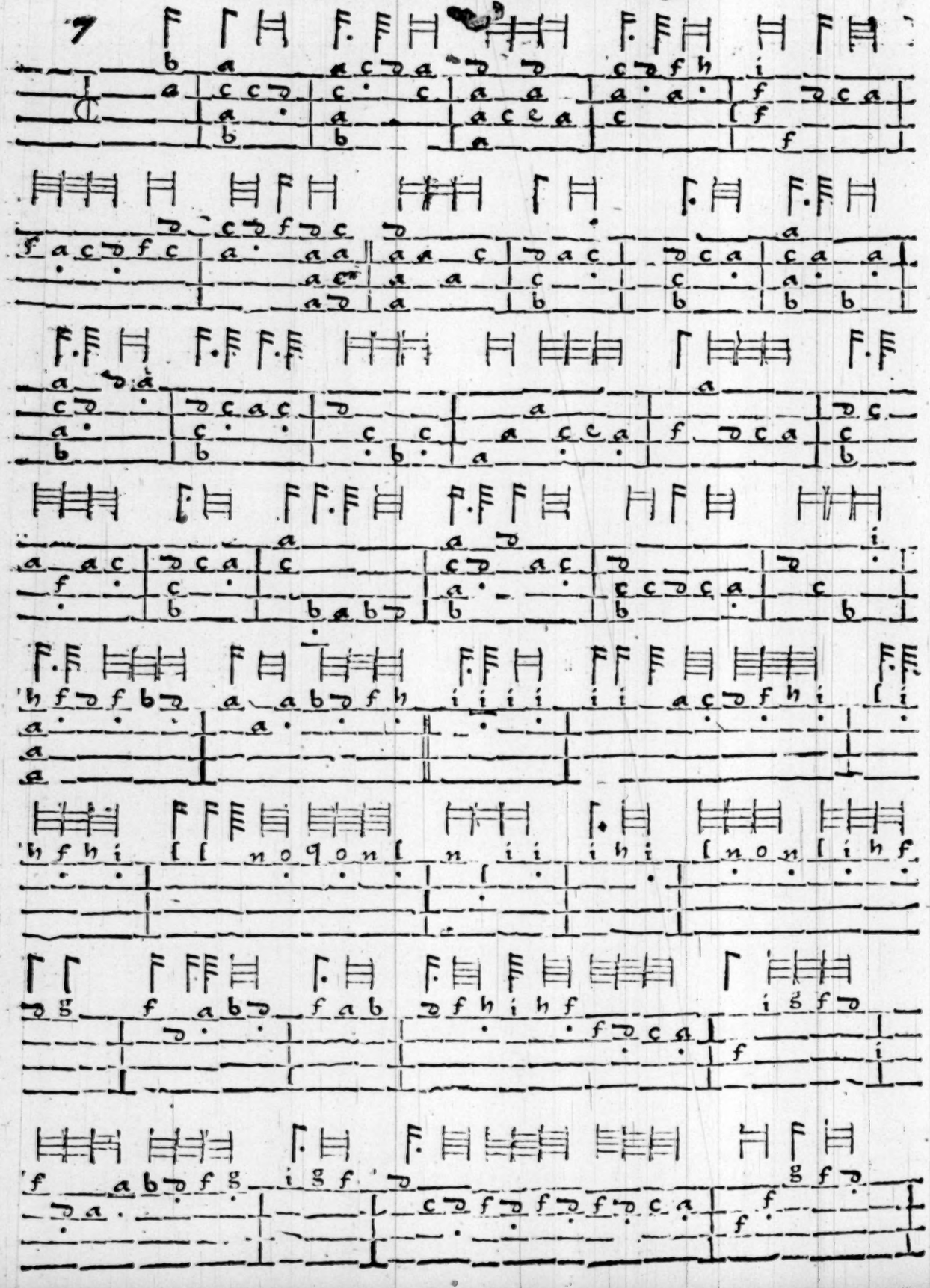

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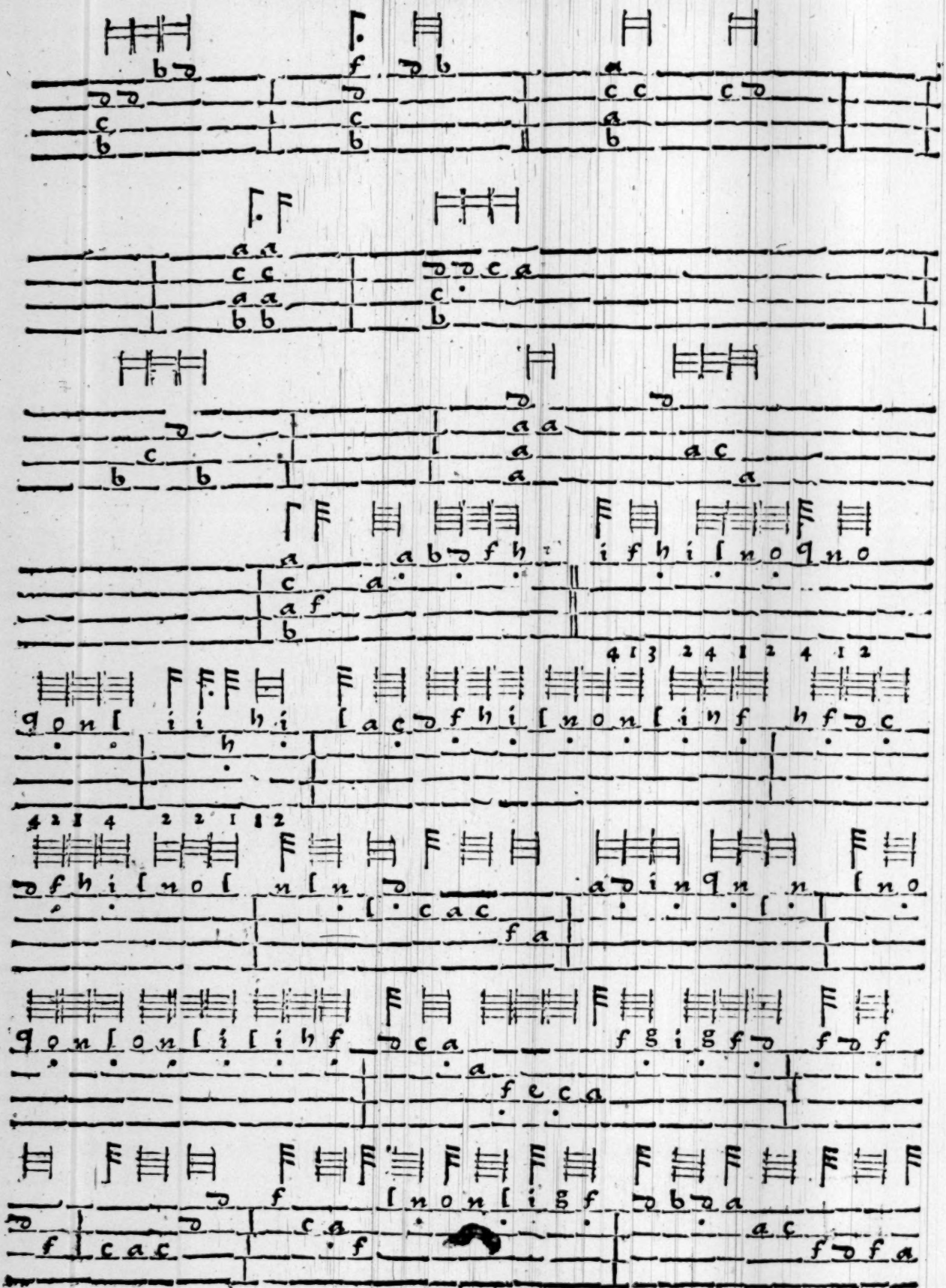

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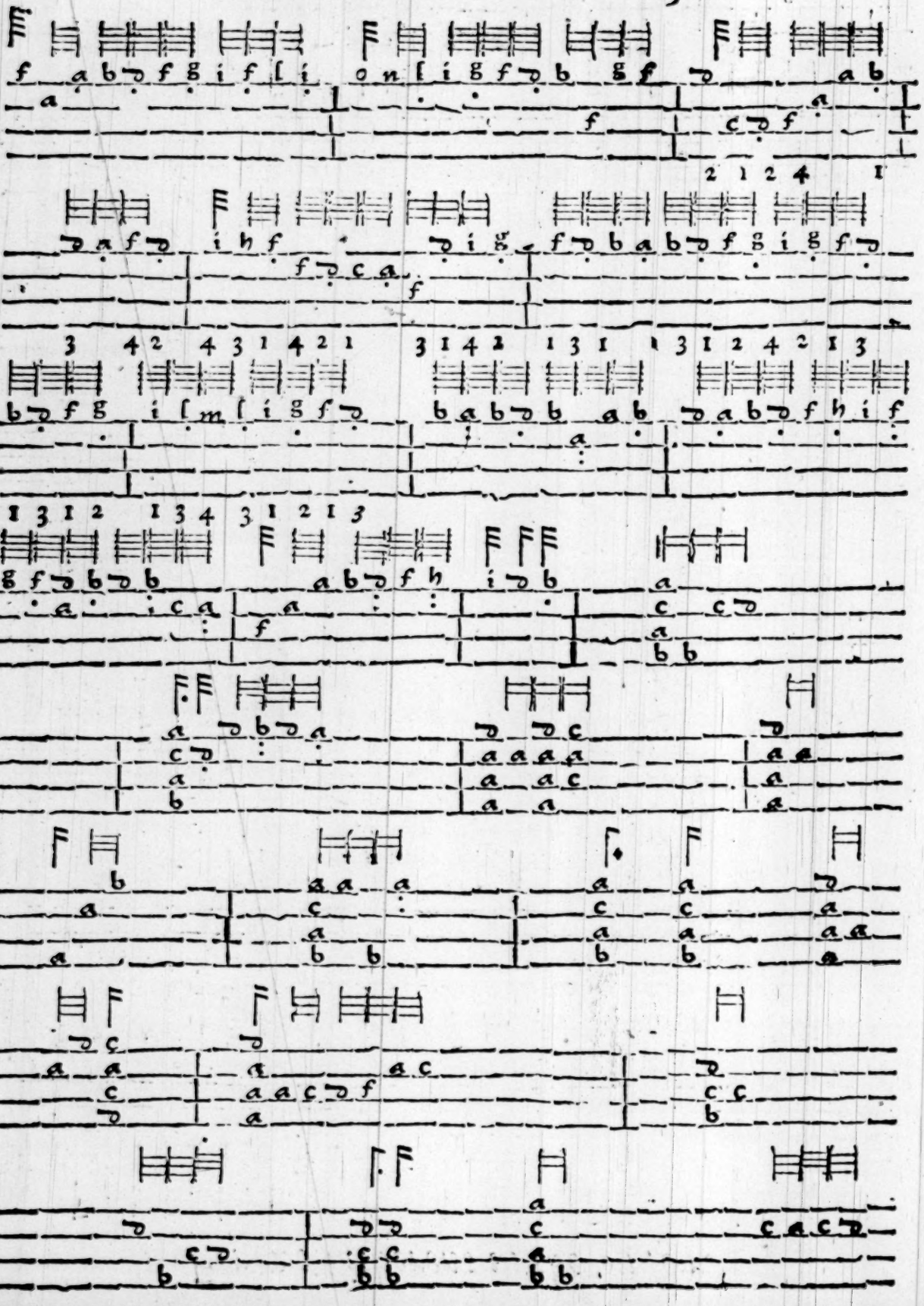

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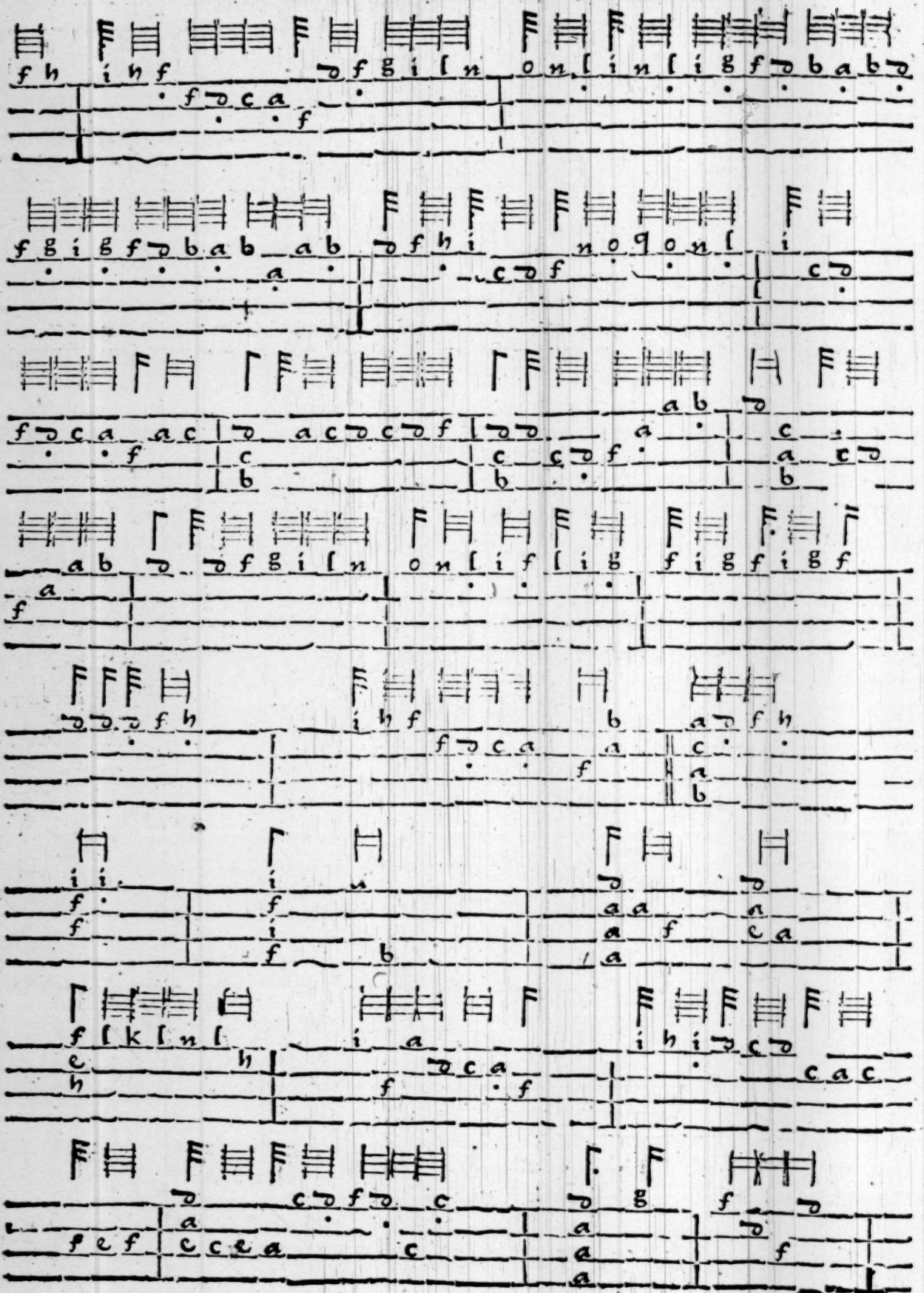

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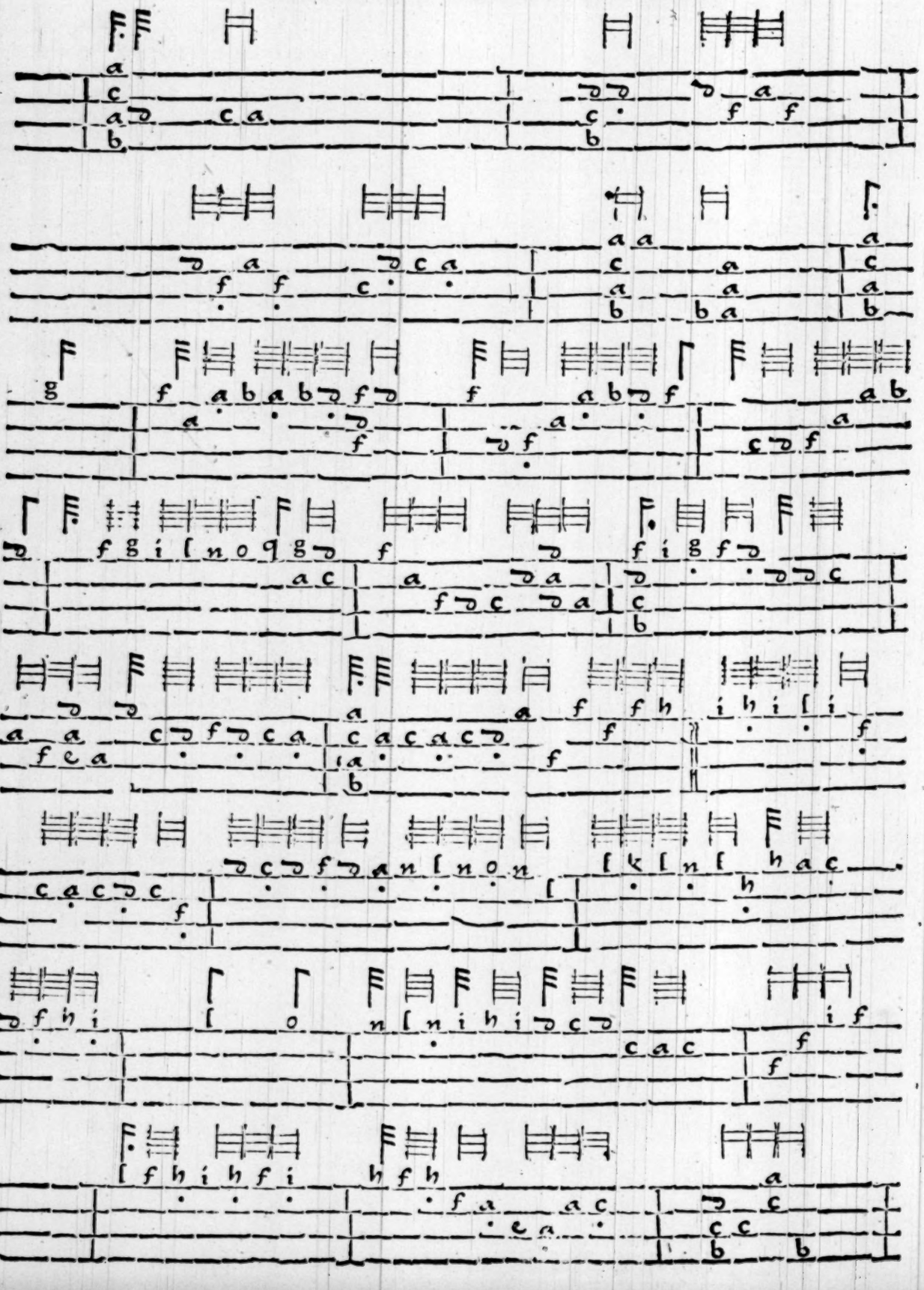

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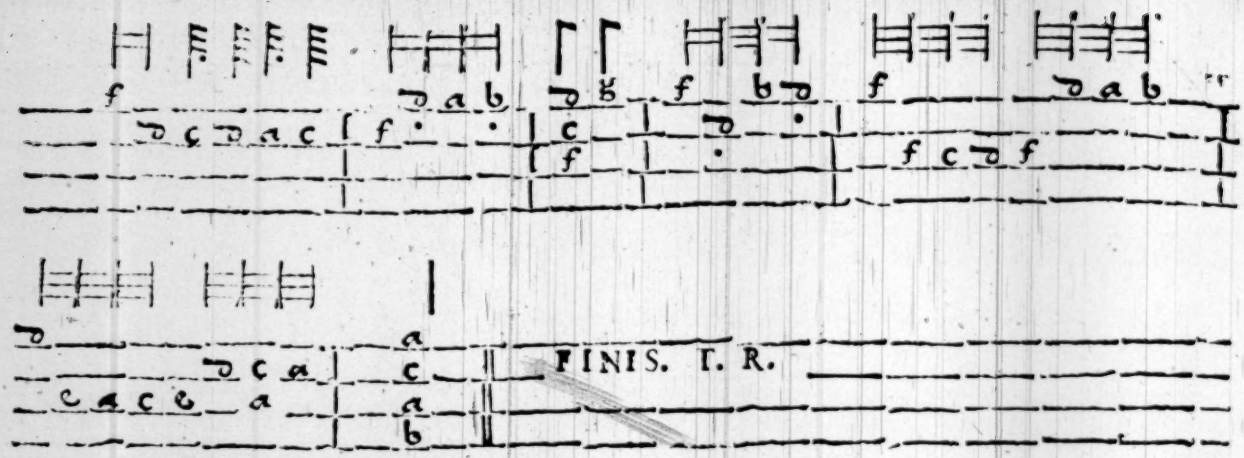
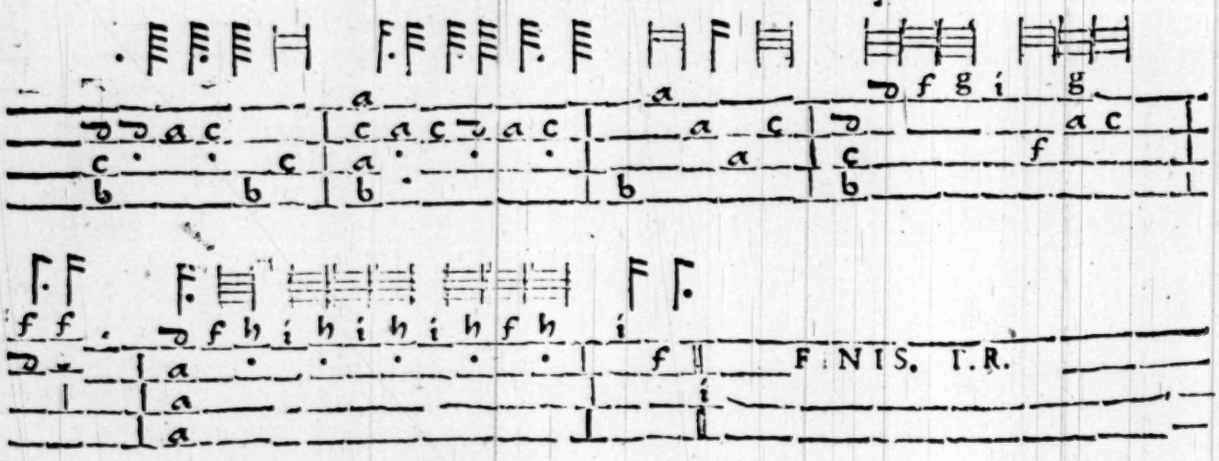


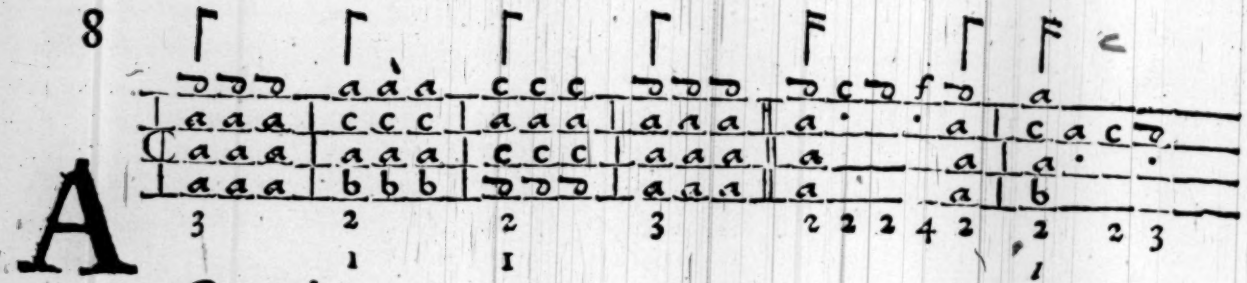
A Iigge for two Citherens.

For two Citharens in the vniſon.



A Iigge for two Citherens.

The first Lesson both for instruction, and also to play alone *as a good Proficient.*



A

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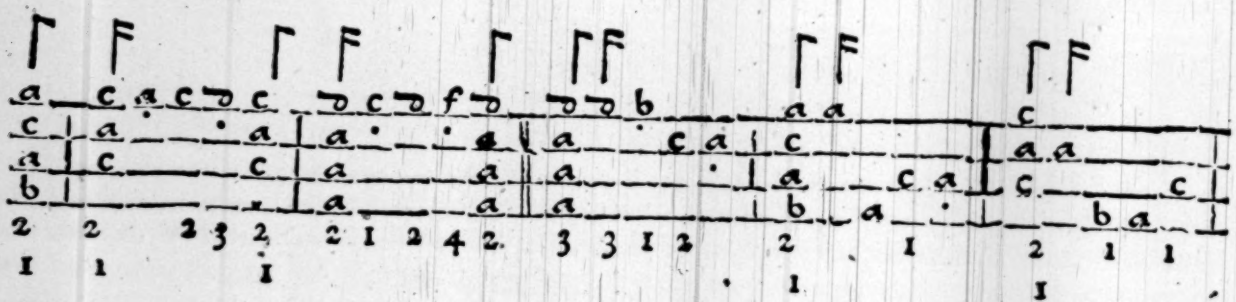

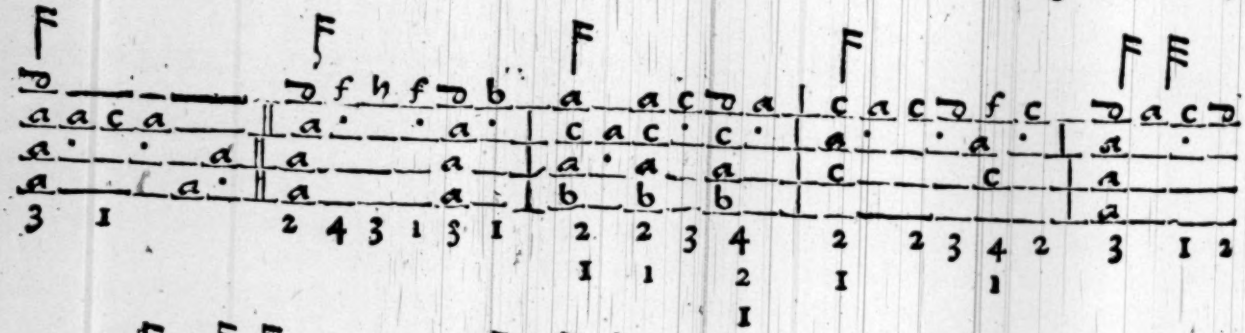

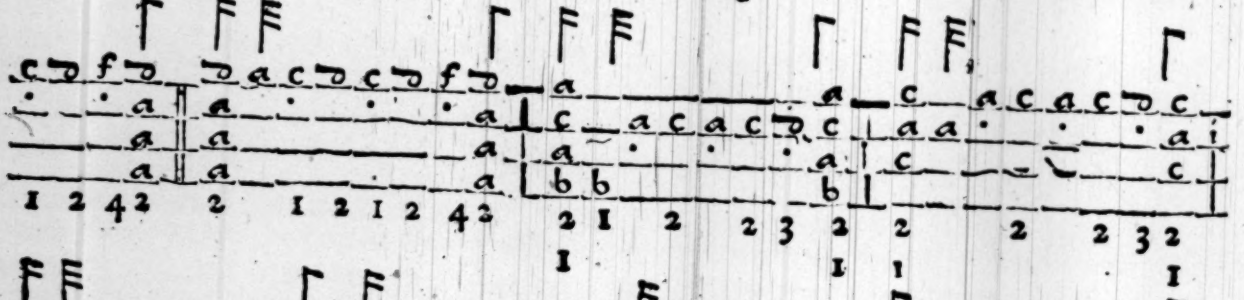

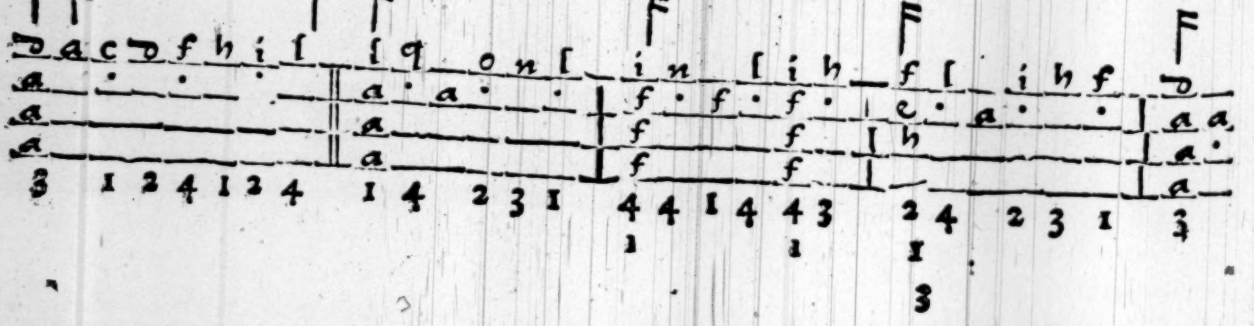

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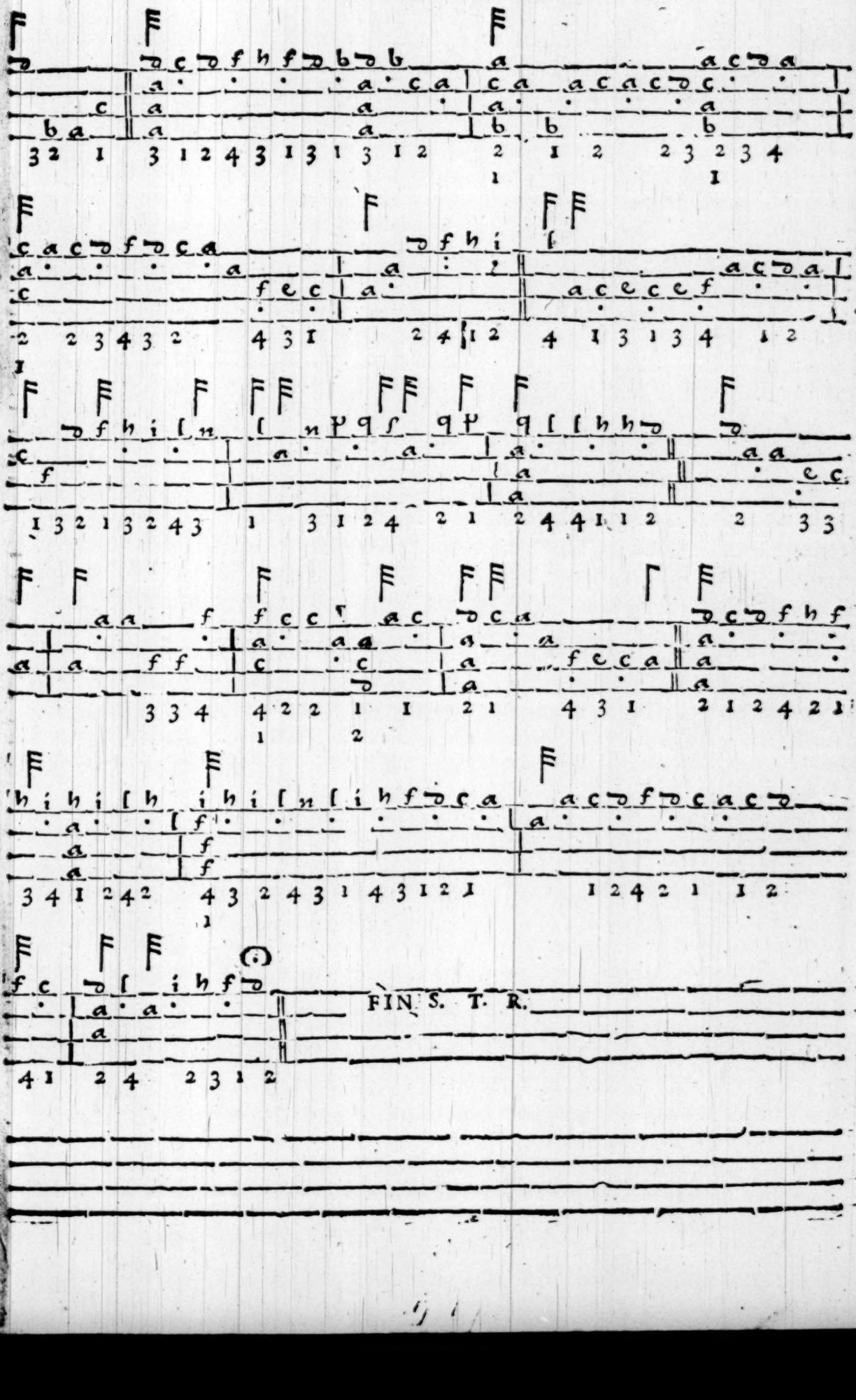

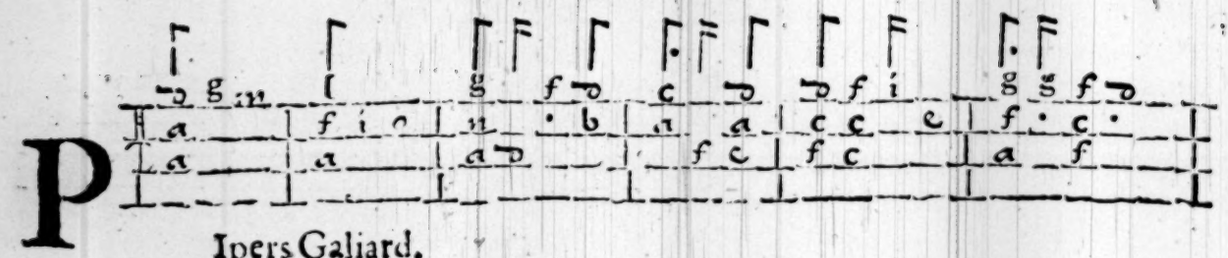

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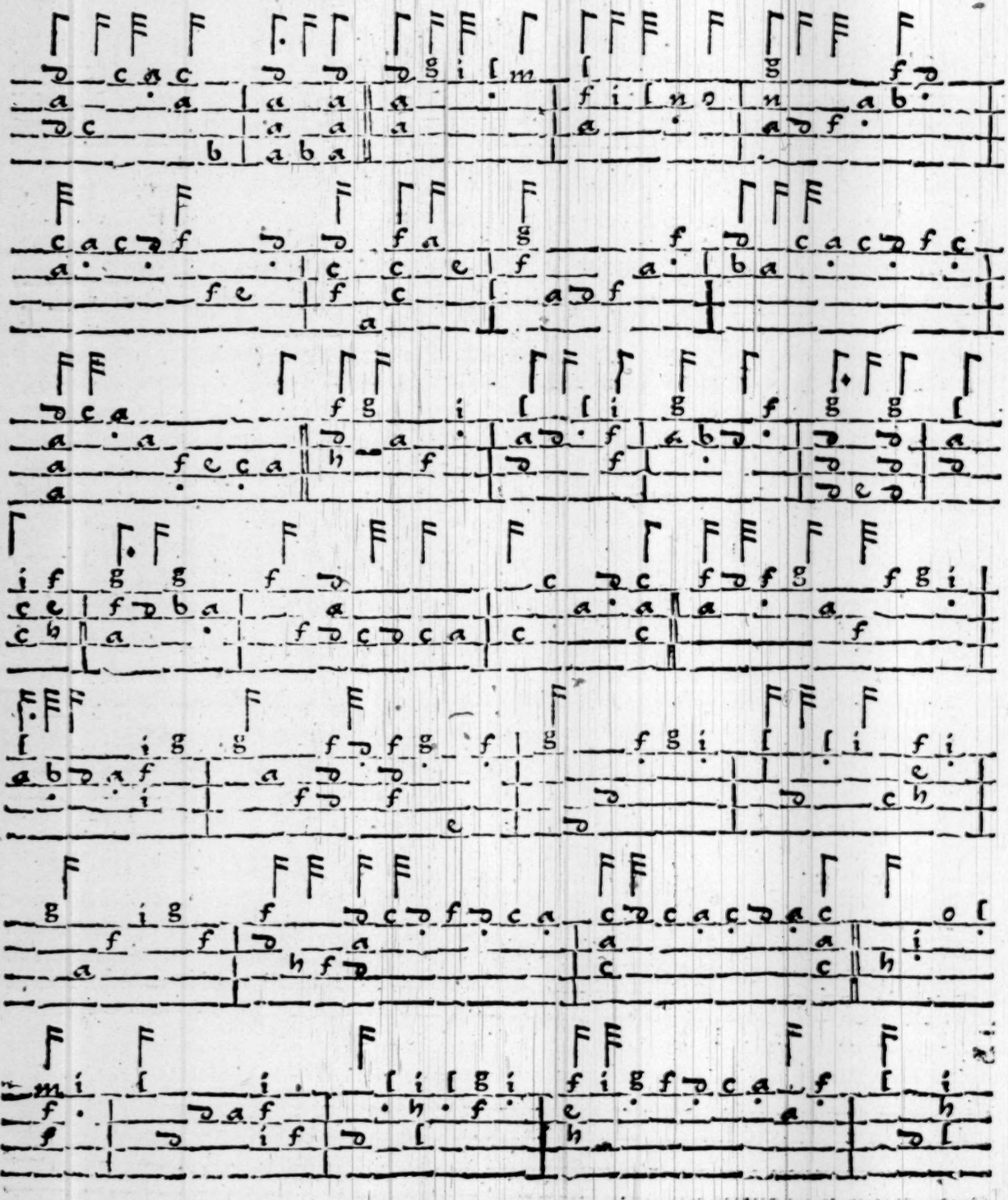

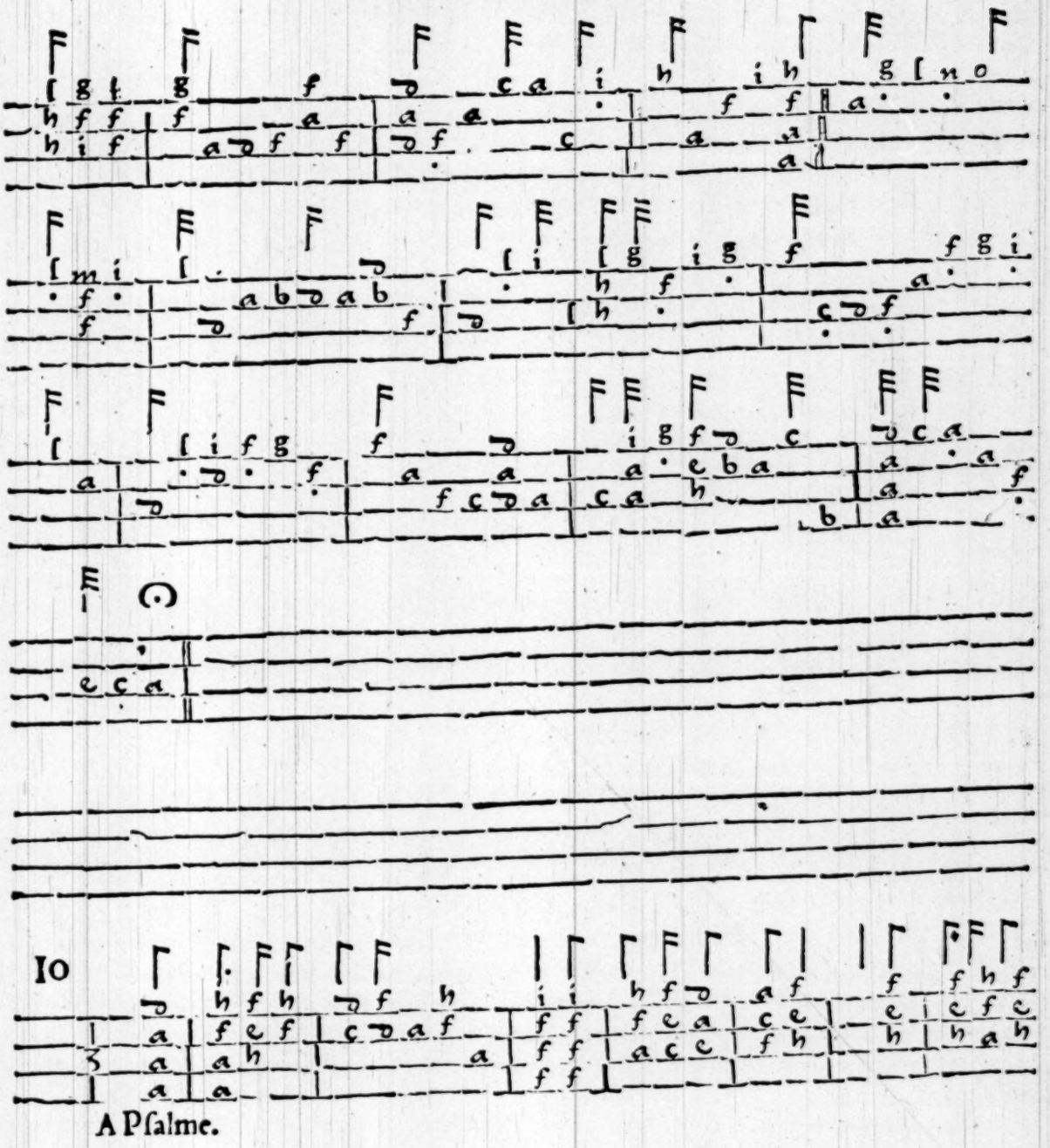

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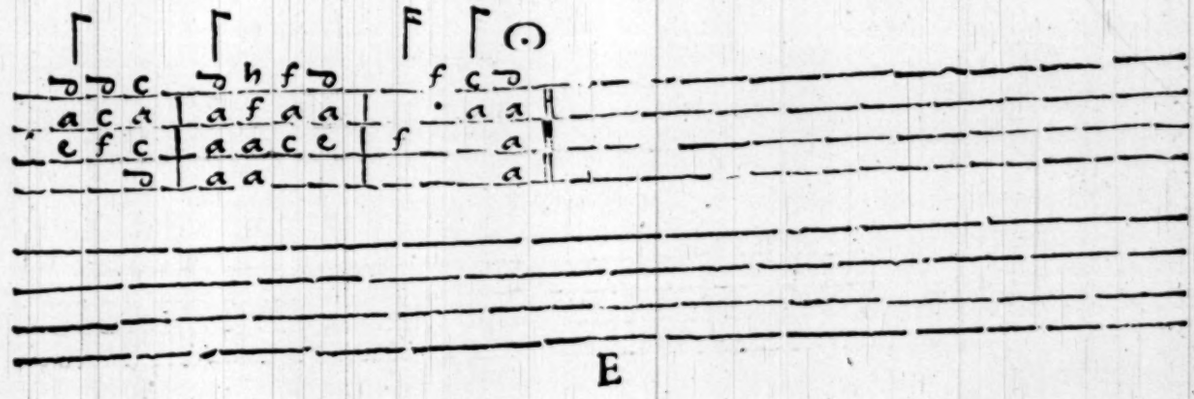

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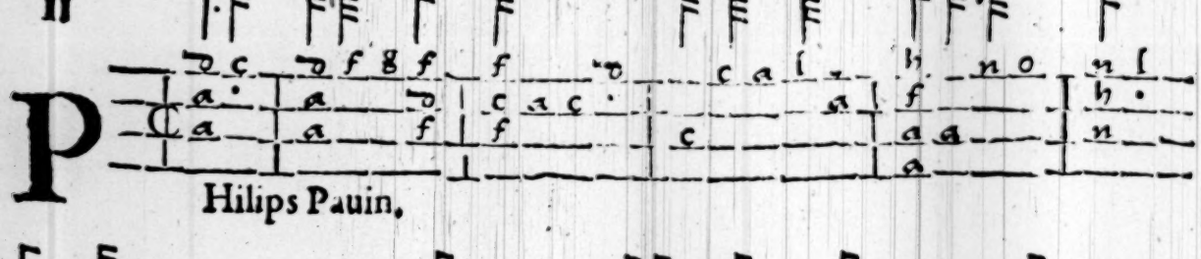

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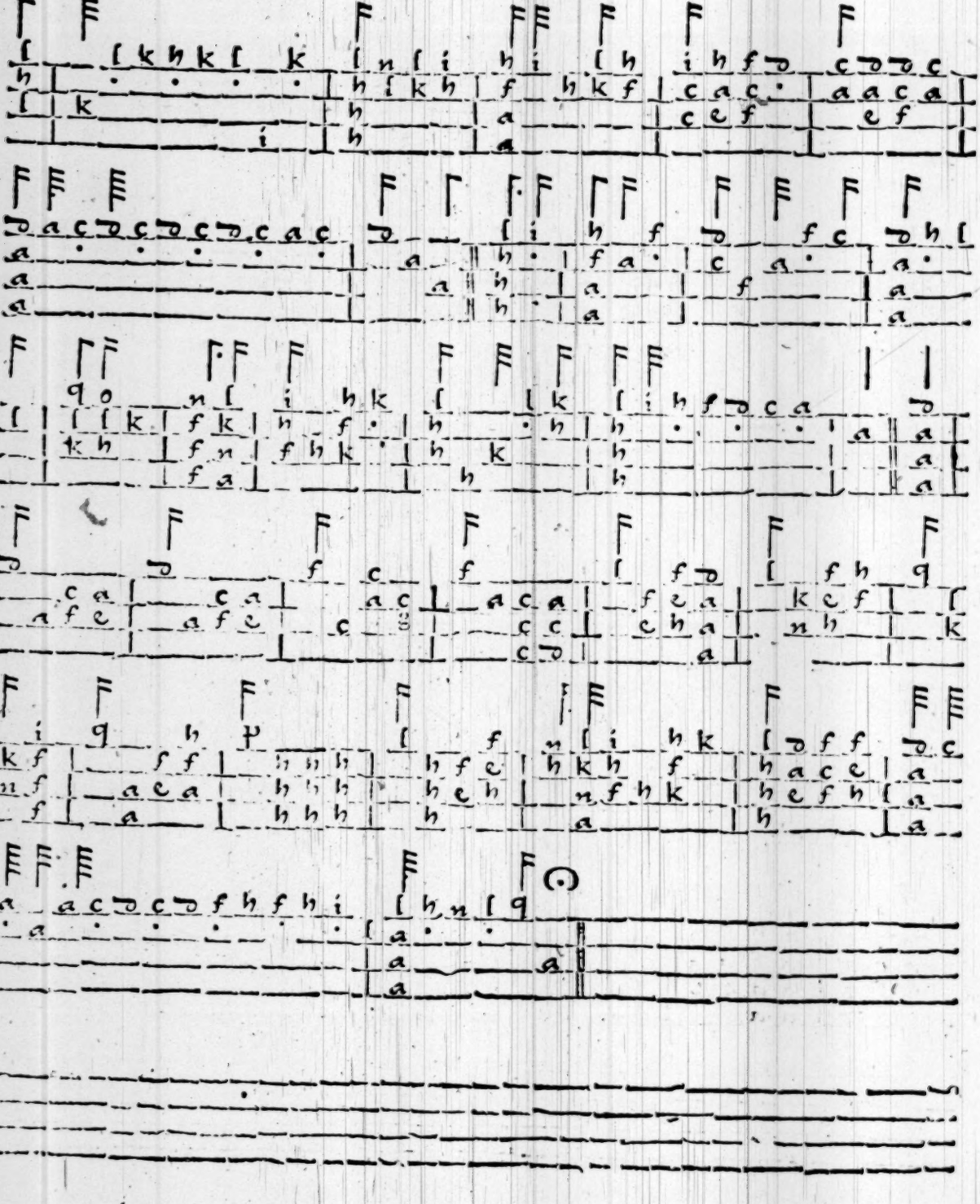

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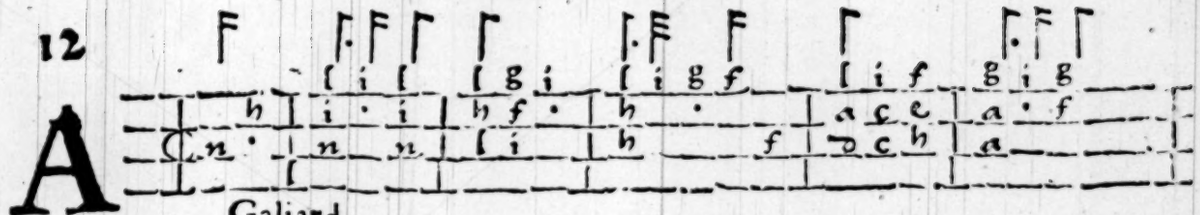

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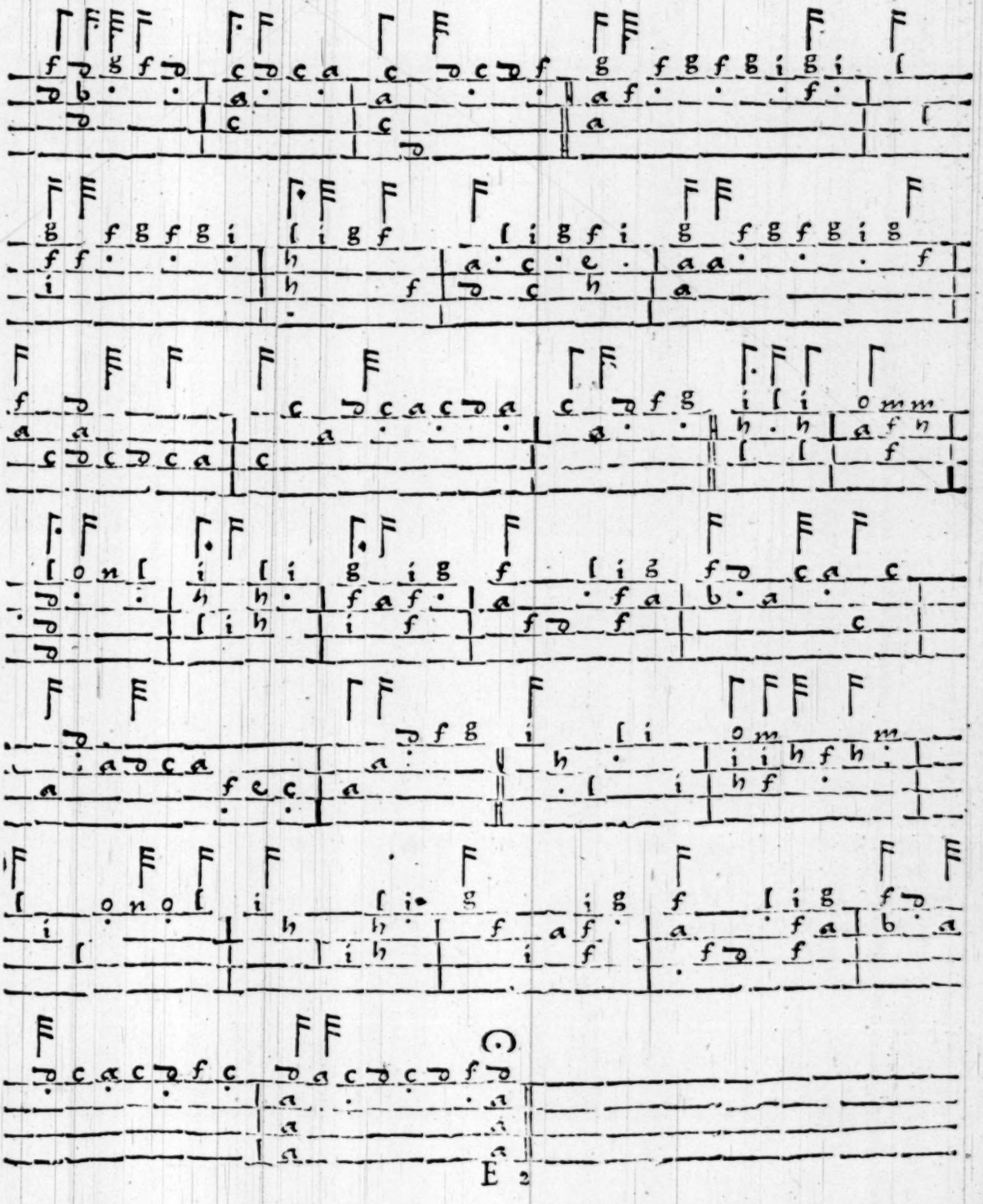

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A

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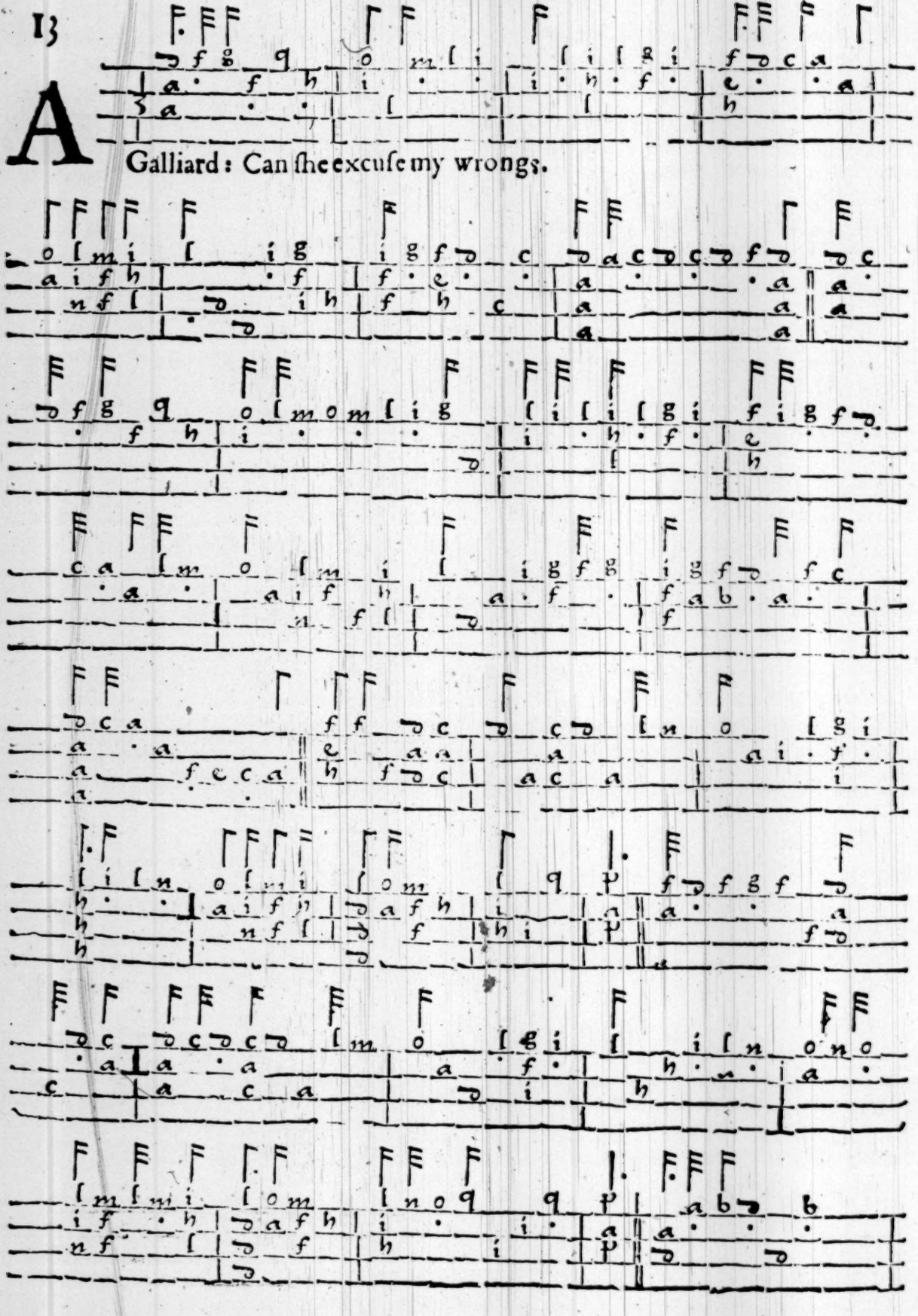

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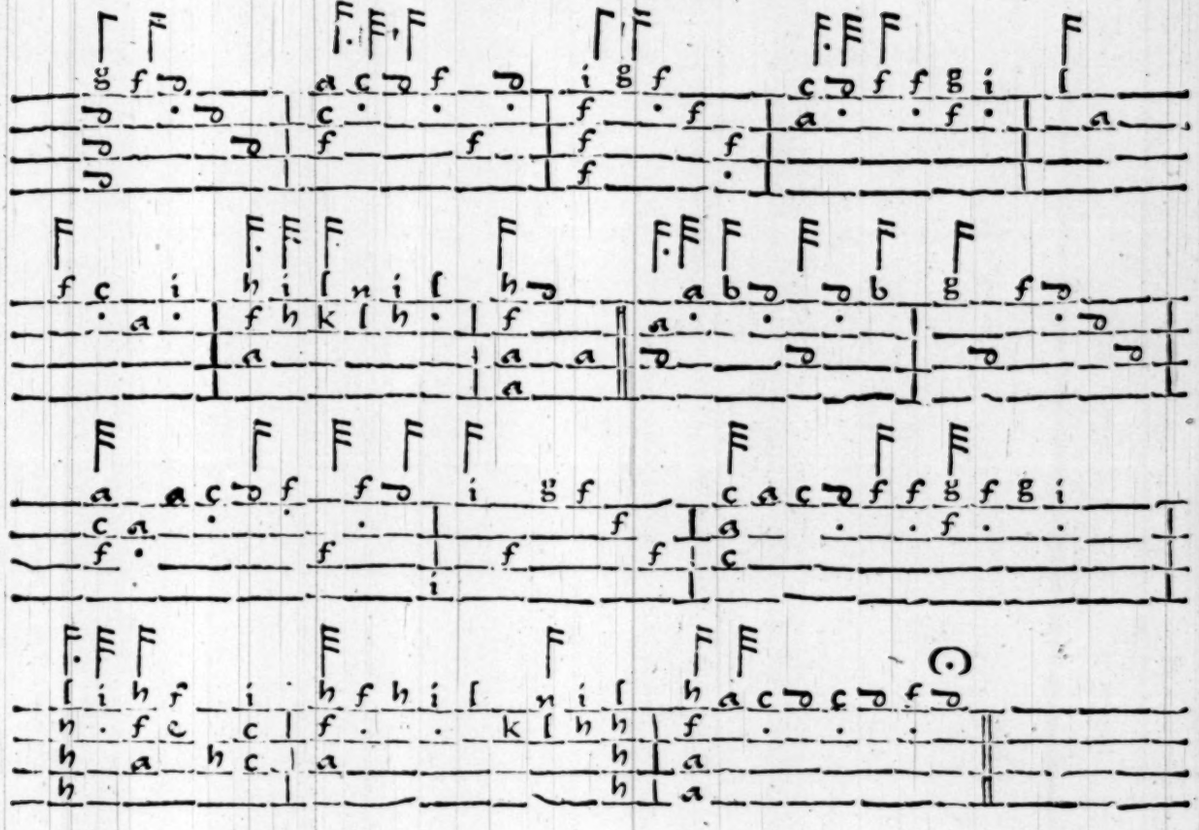

14

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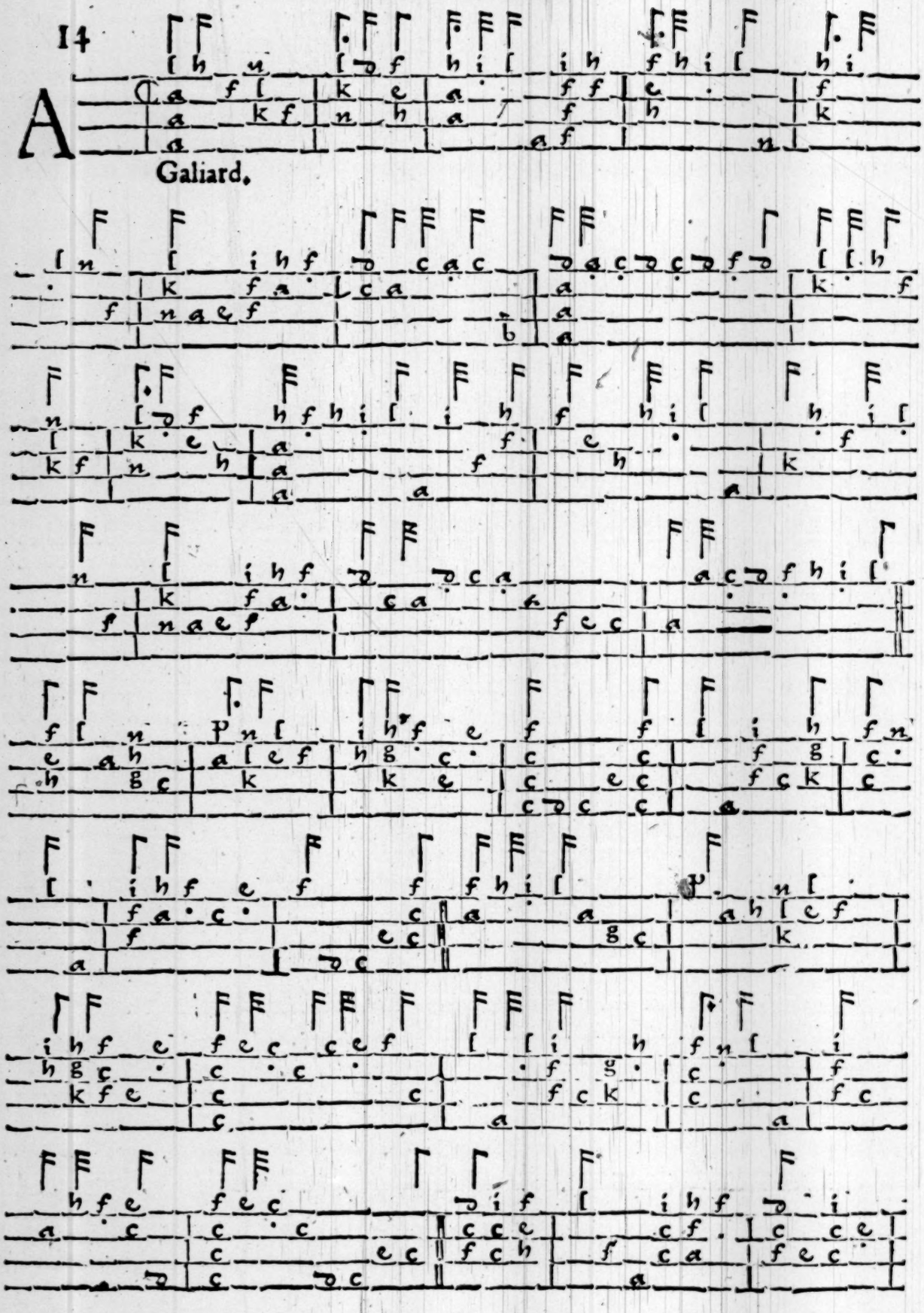

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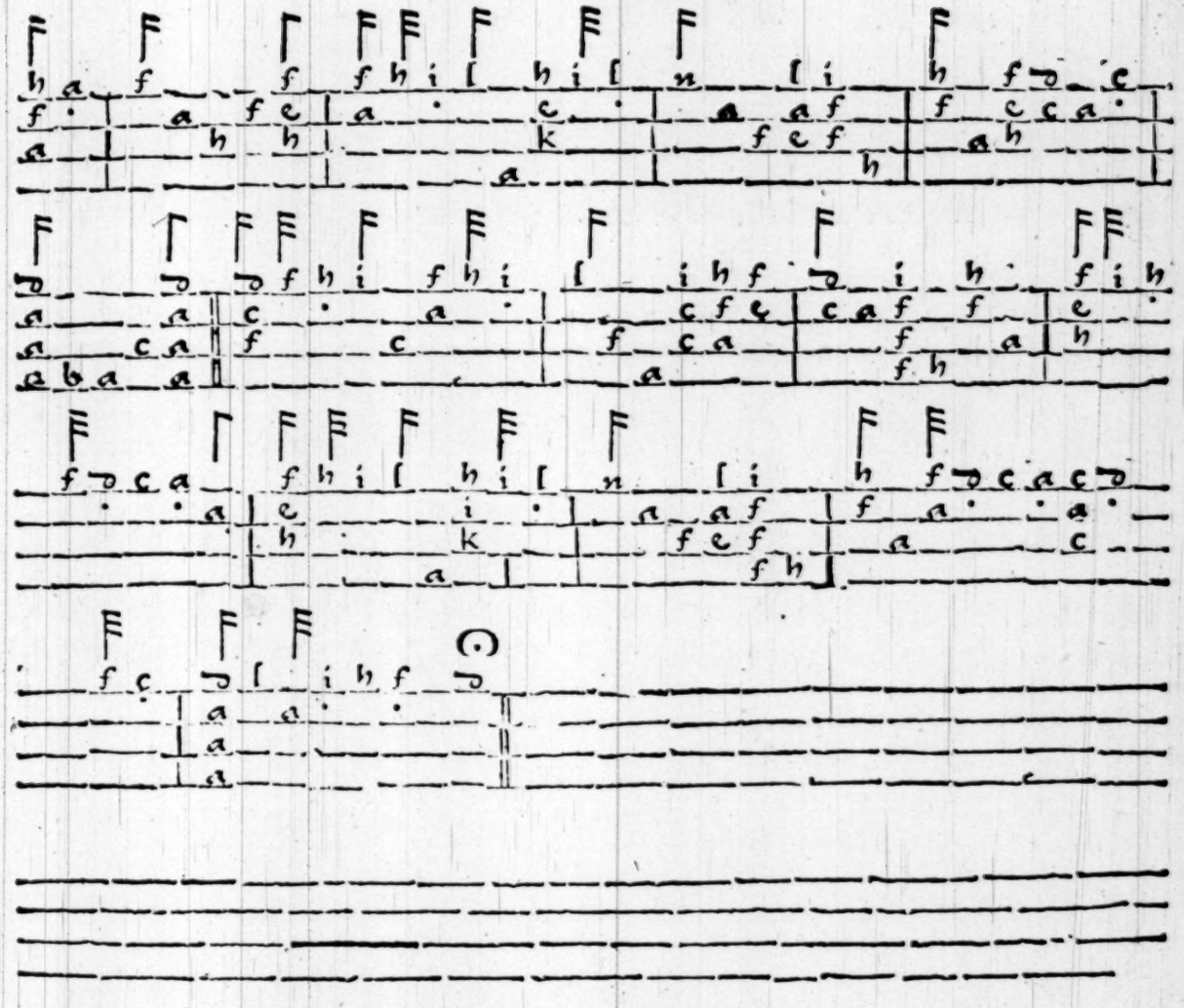

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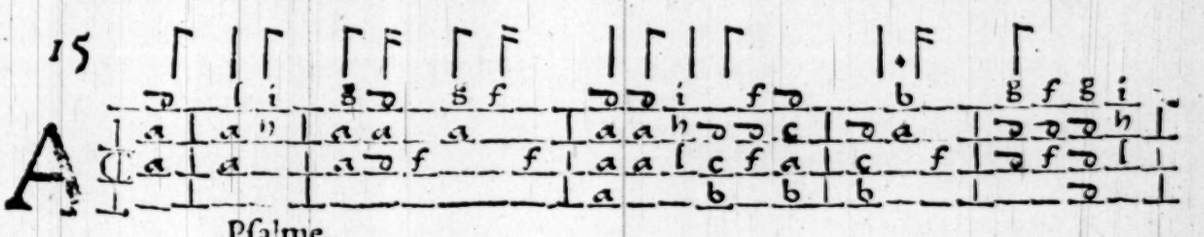

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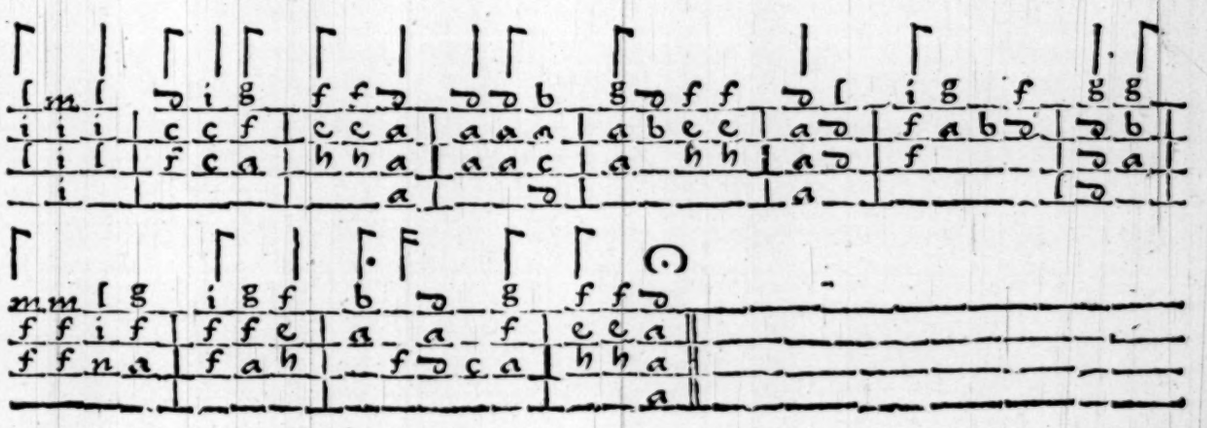

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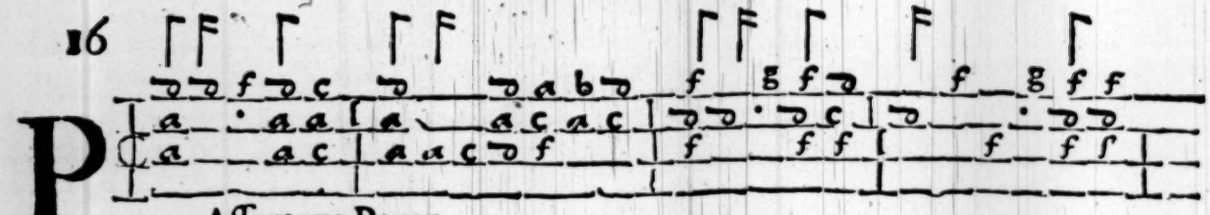

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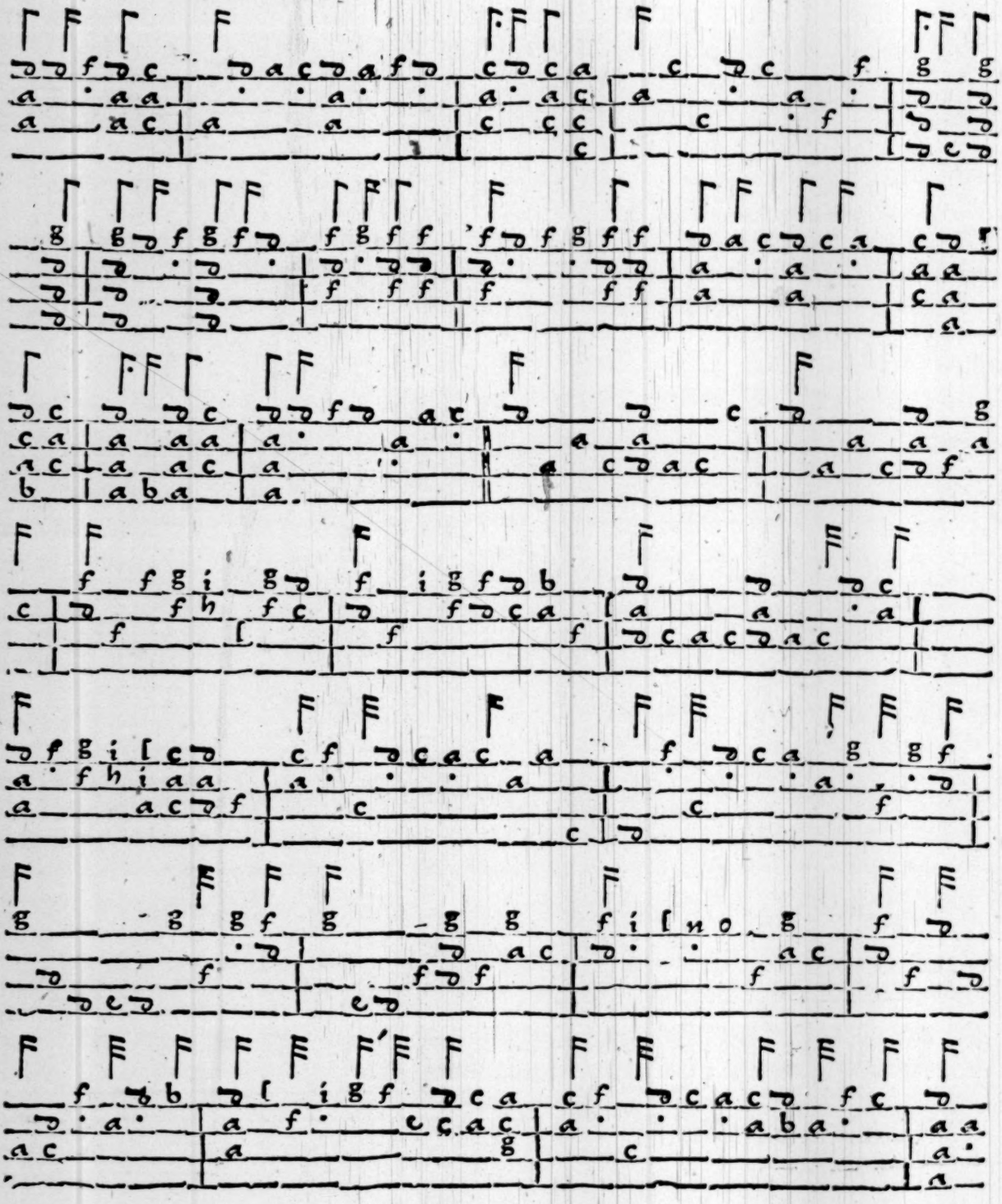

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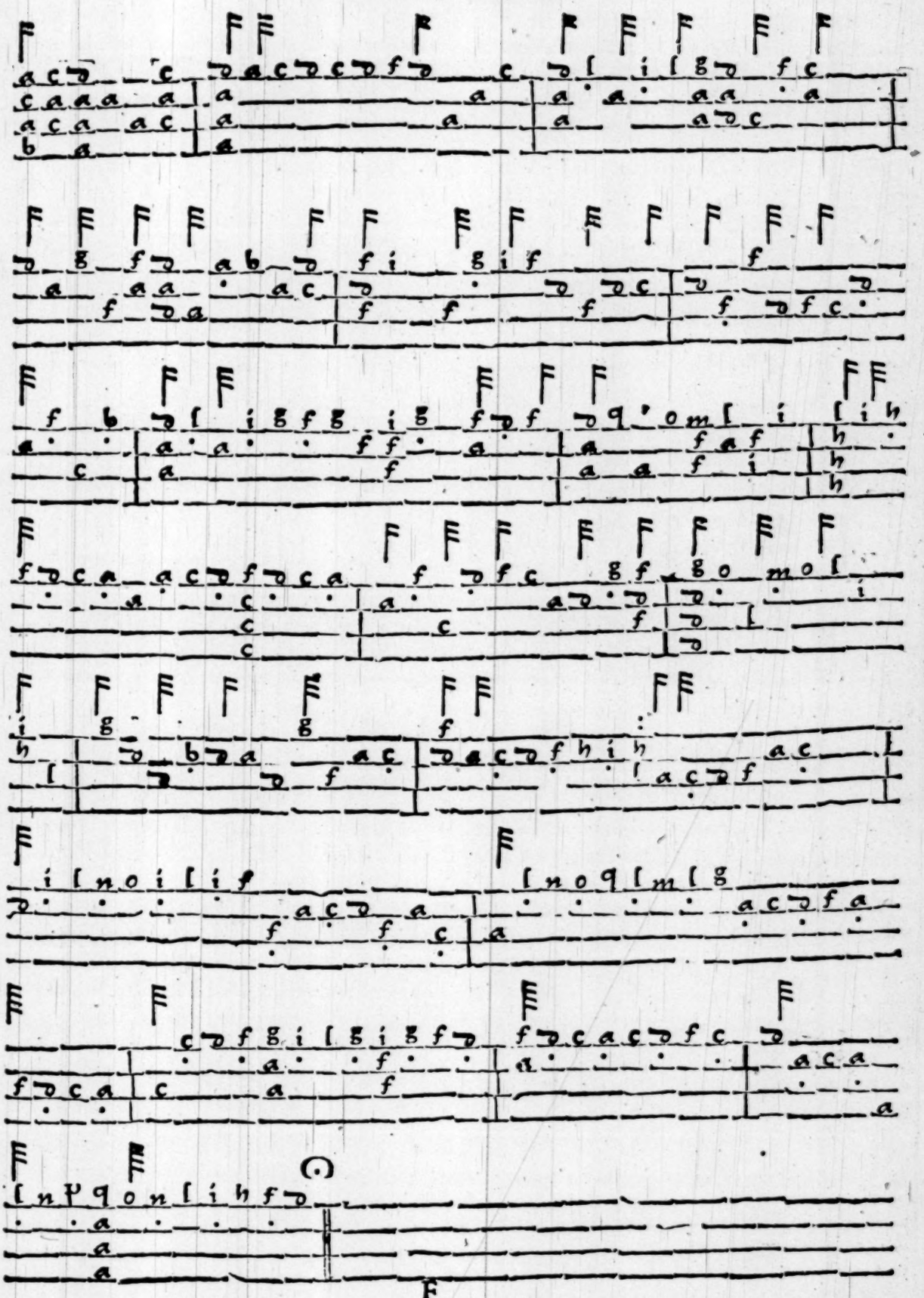

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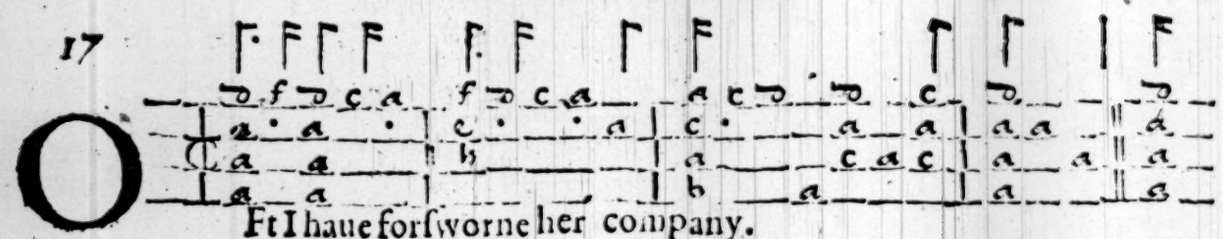
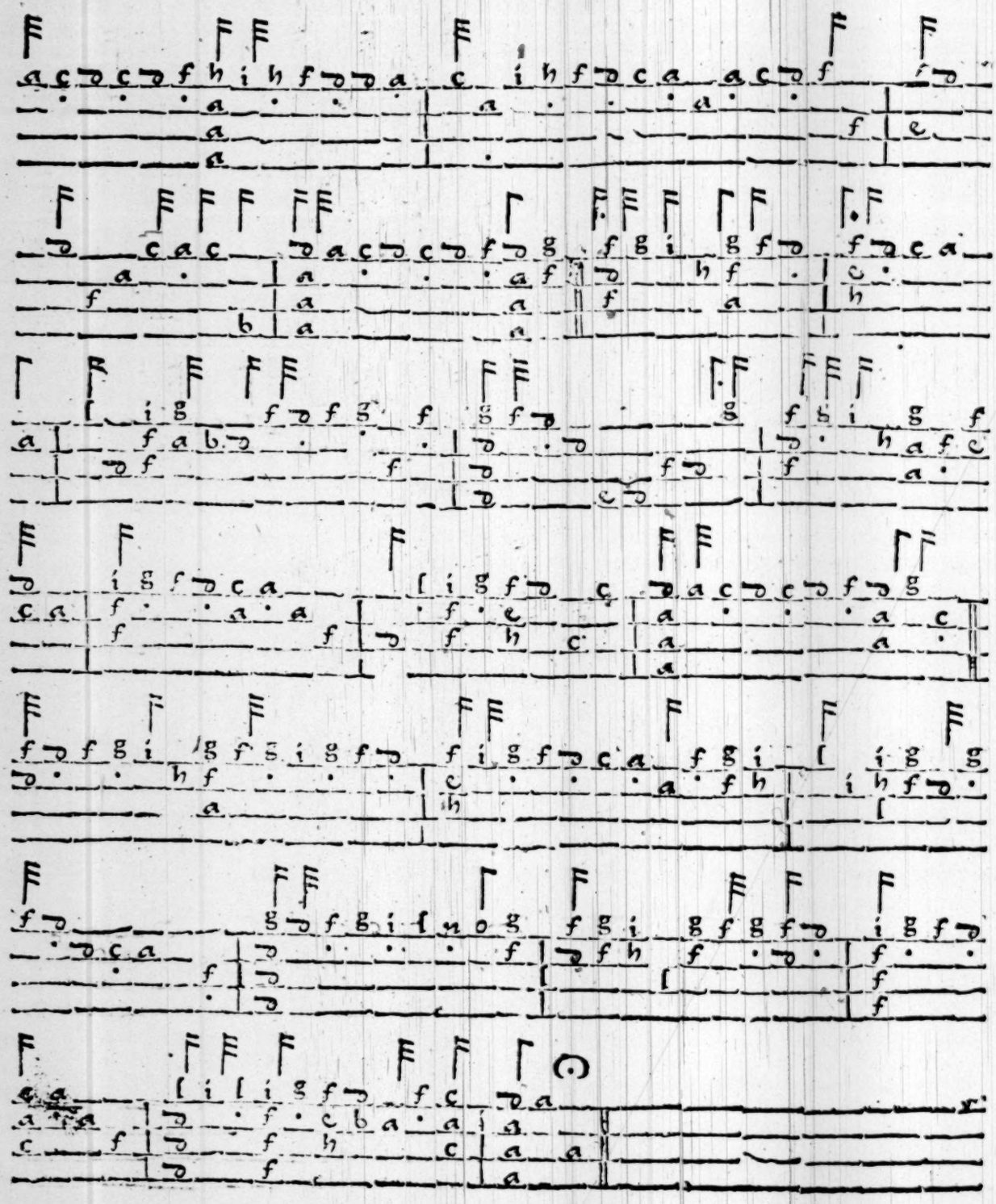
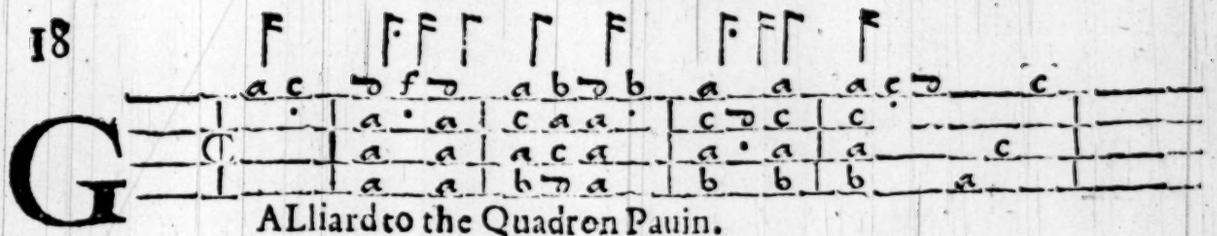
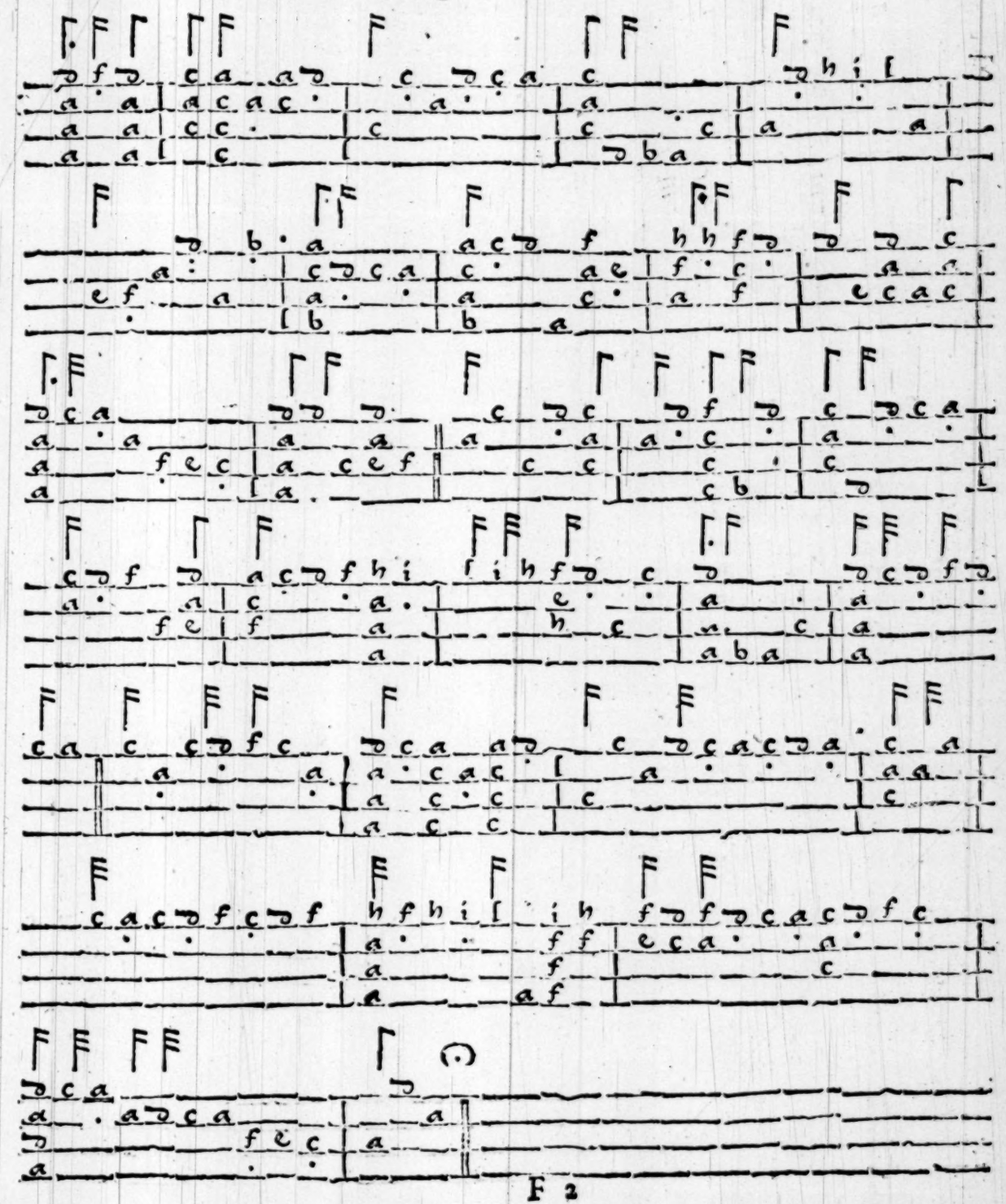


OFt I haue forſworne her company.





GAlliard to the Quadron Pauin.



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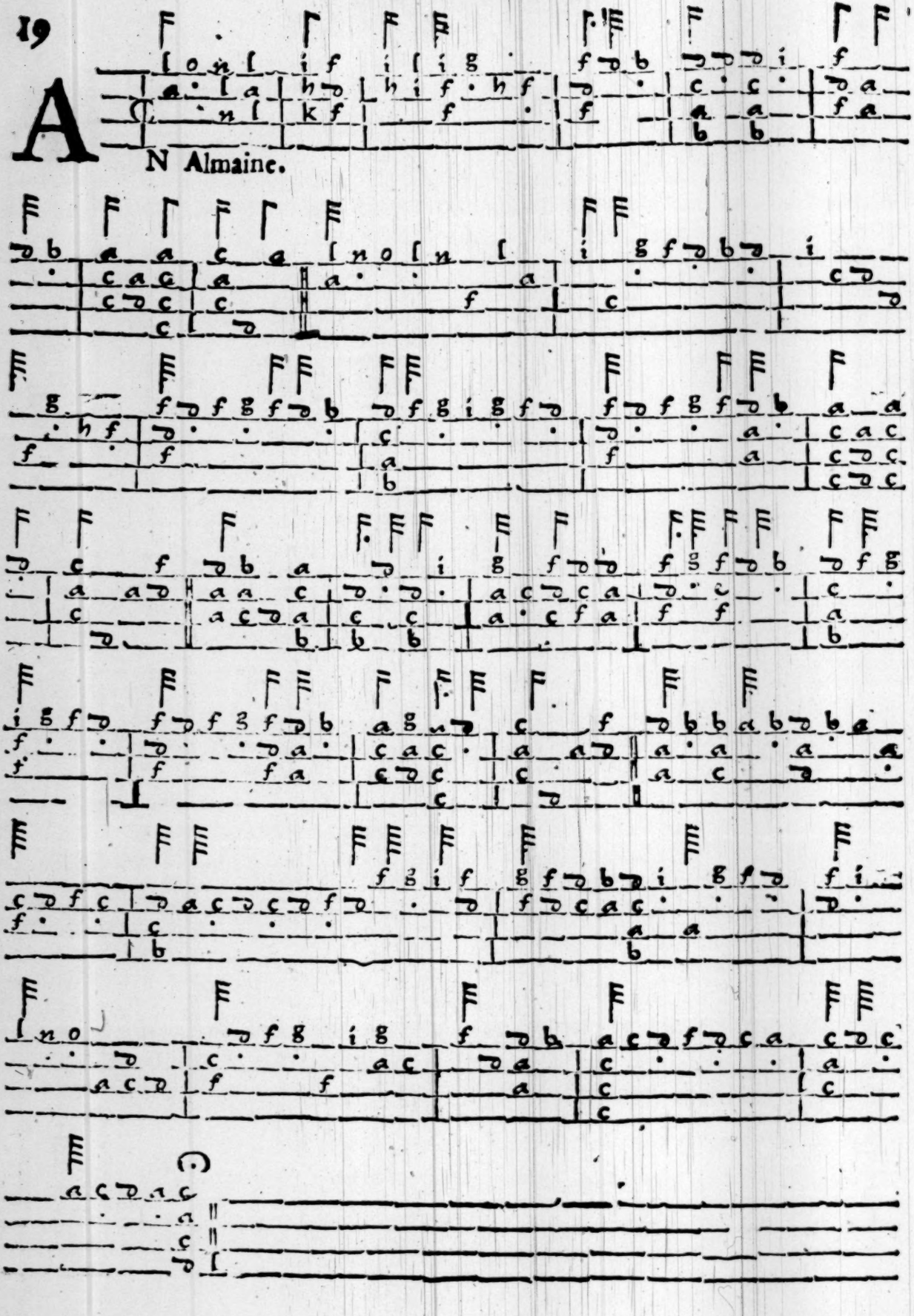
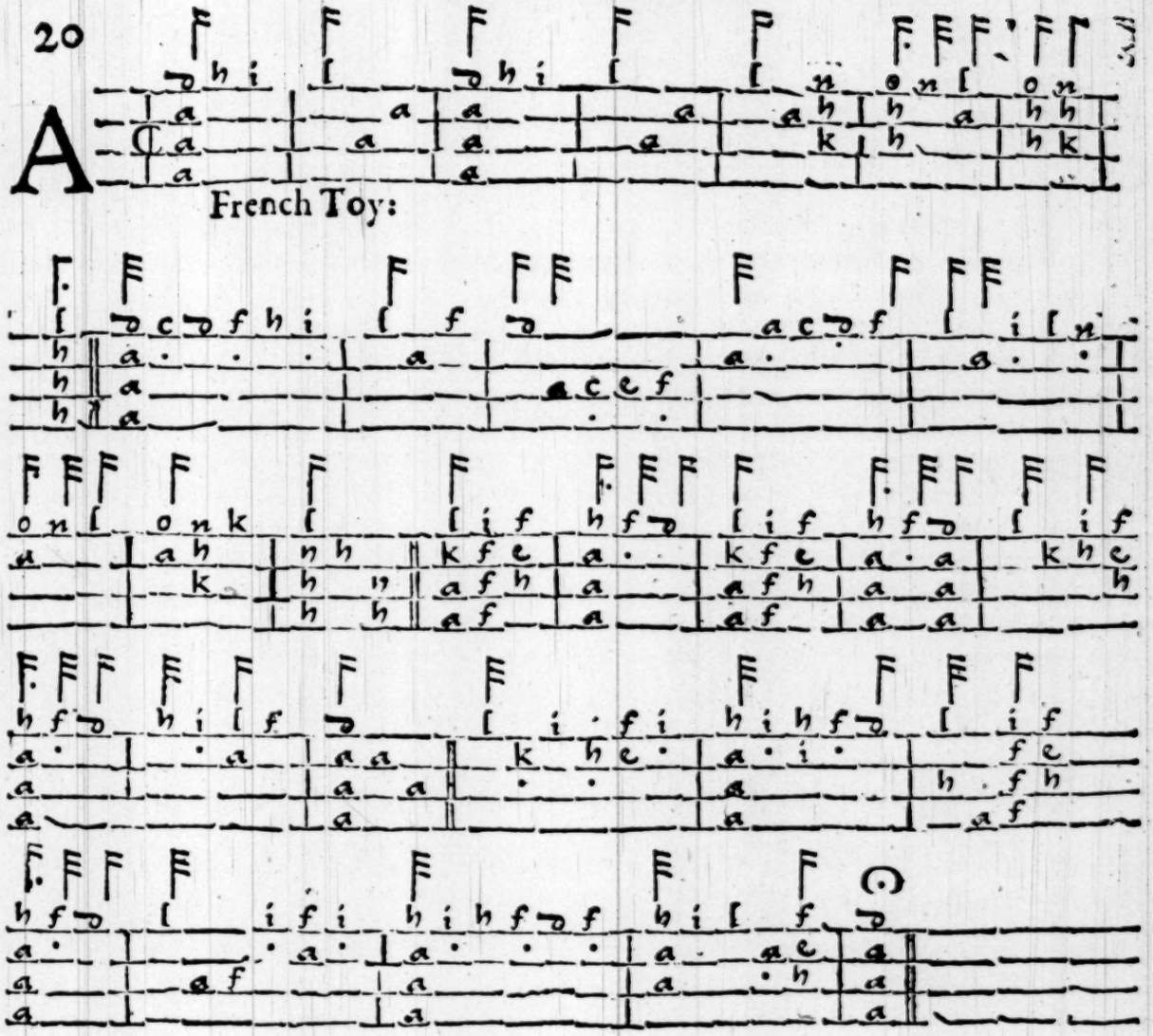


20

A

French Toy:



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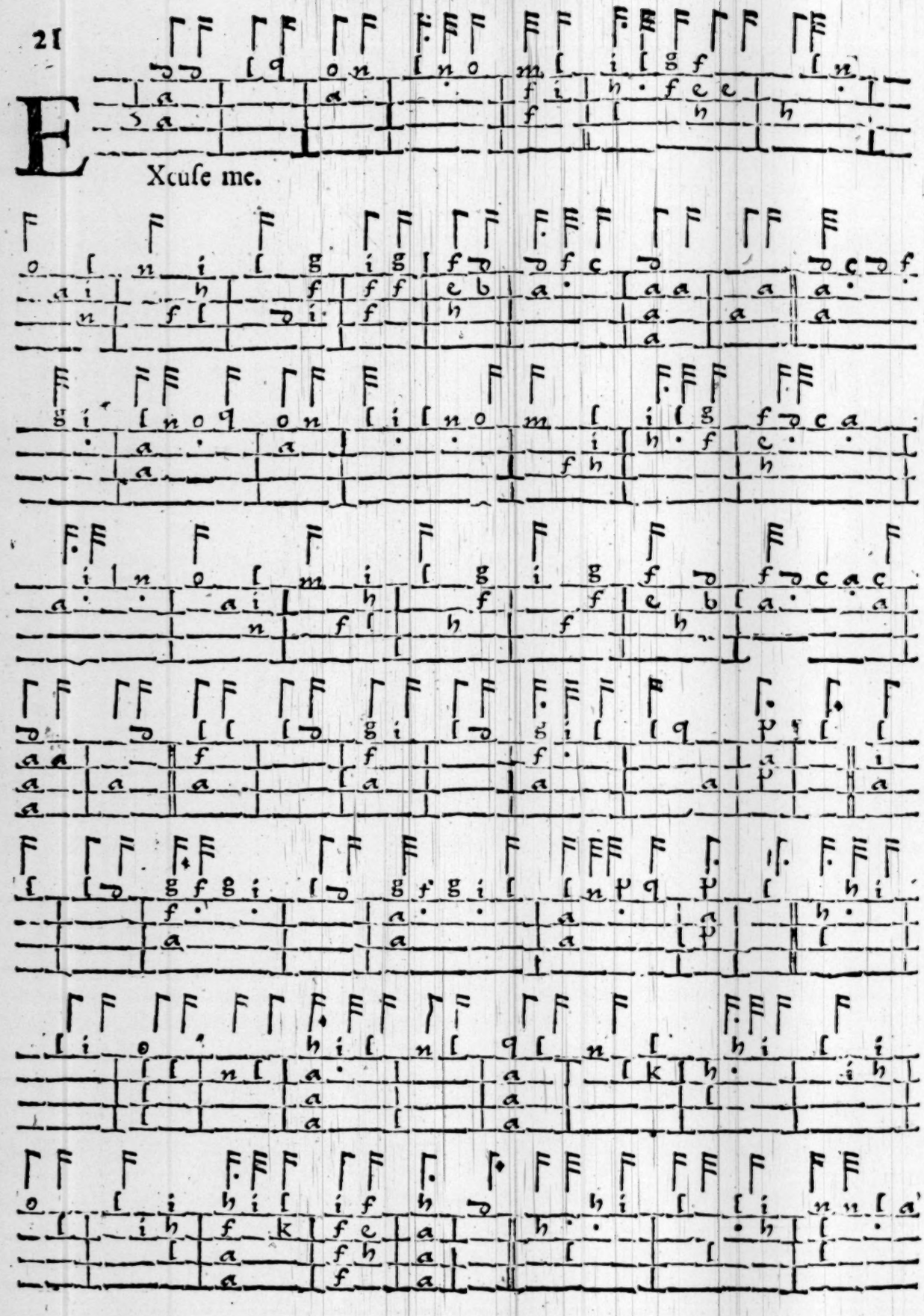

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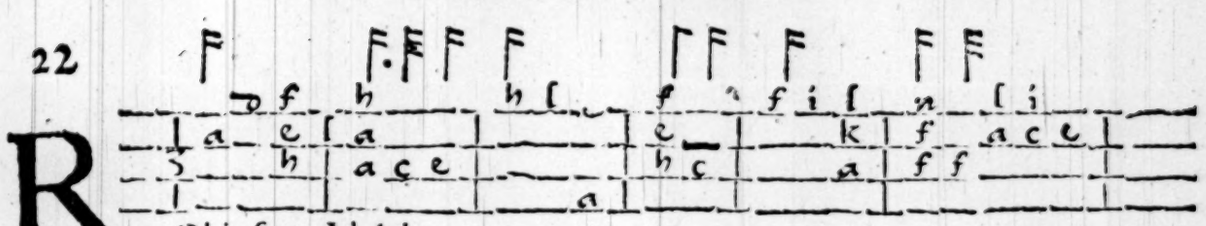

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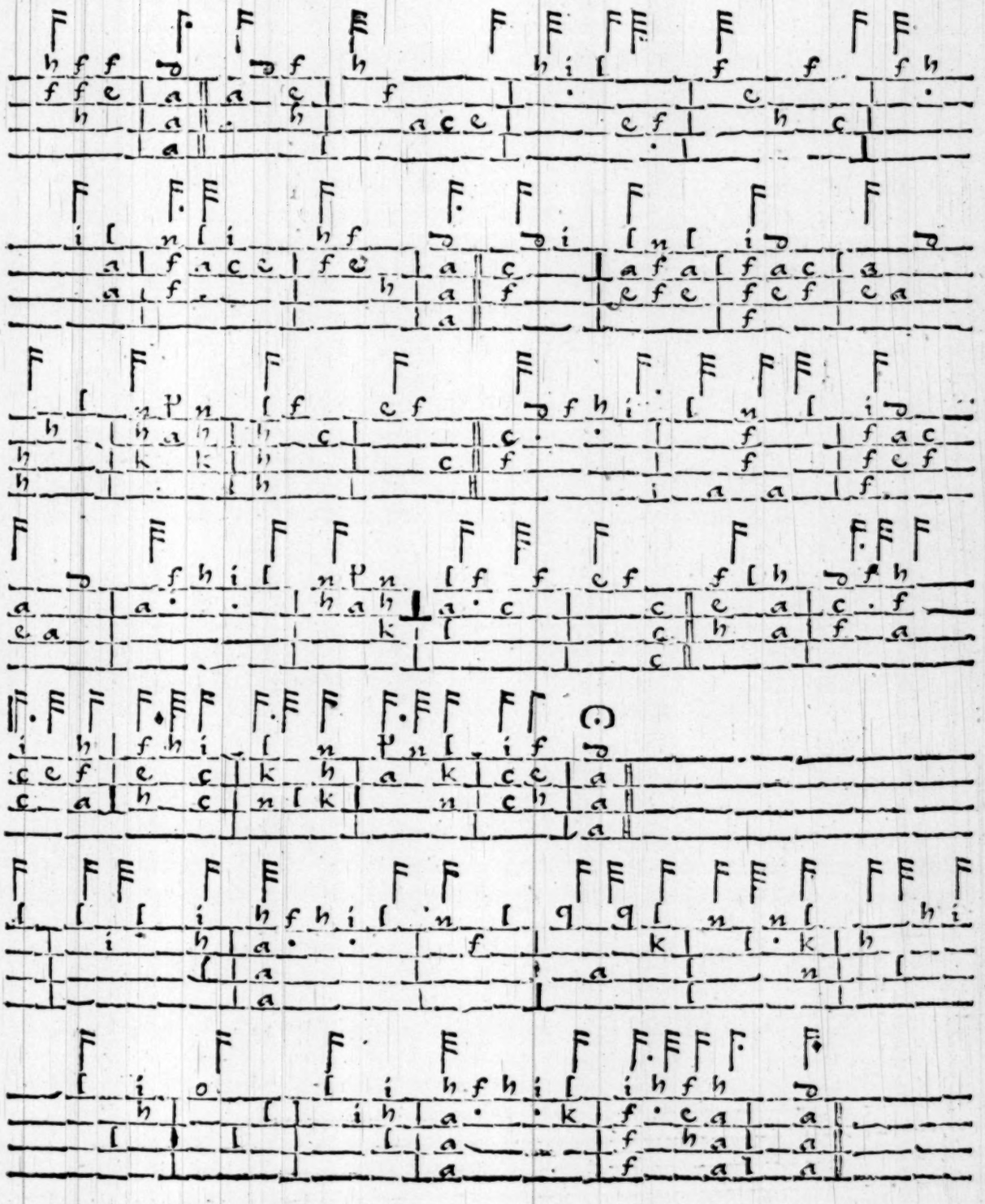

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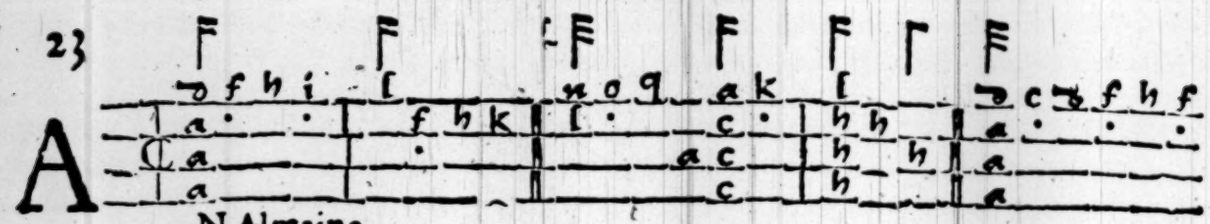

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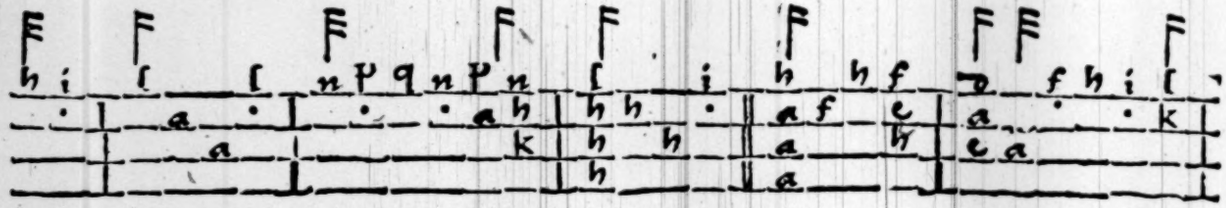

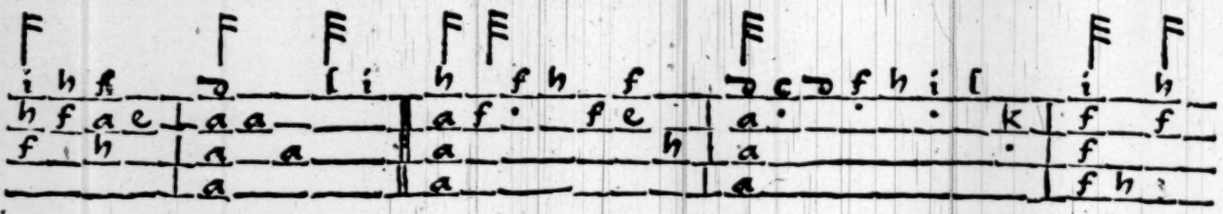

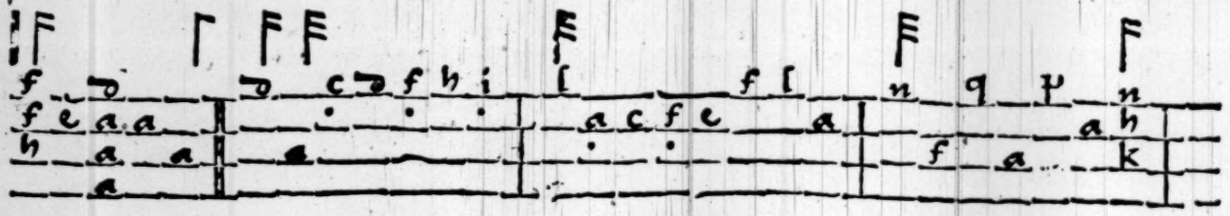

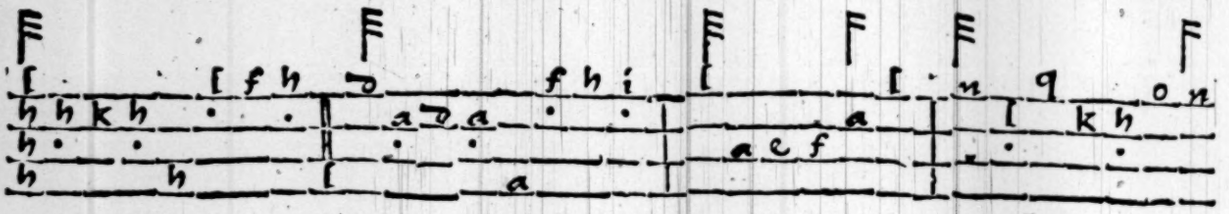

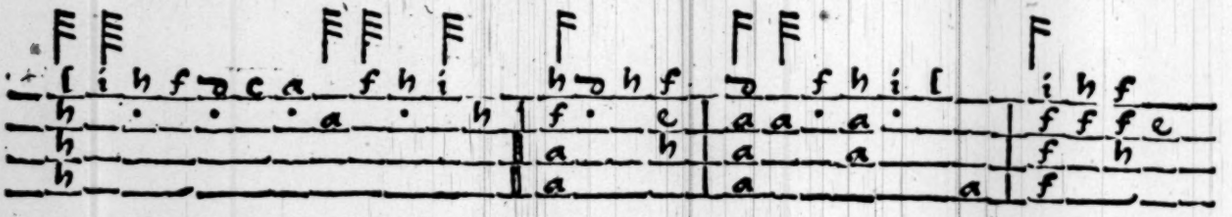

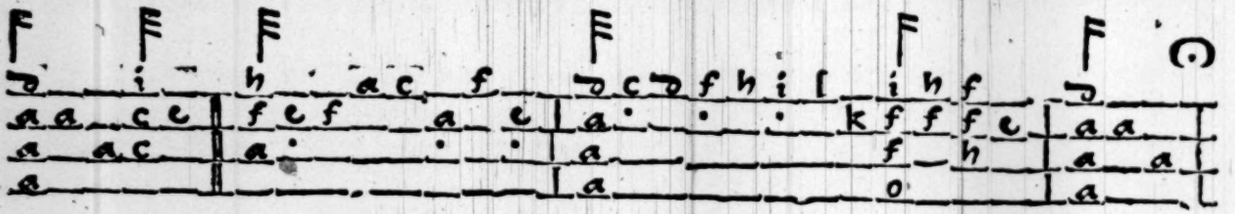

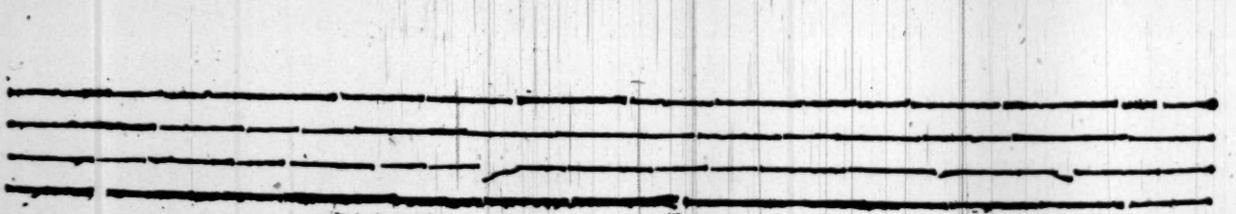

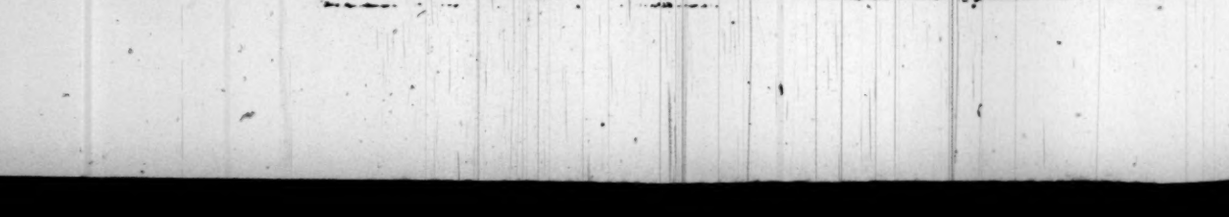

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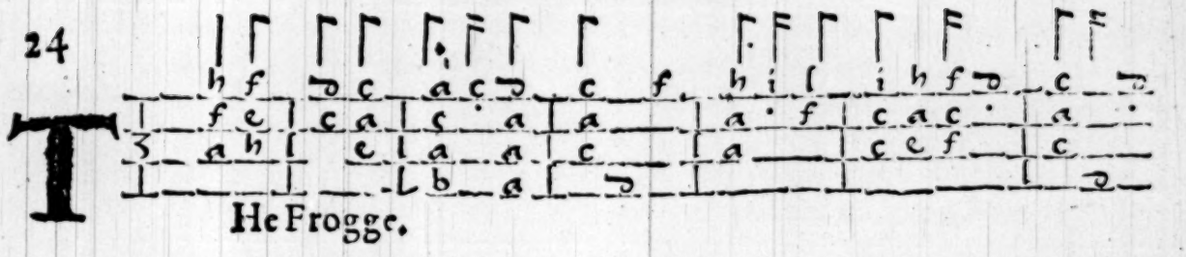

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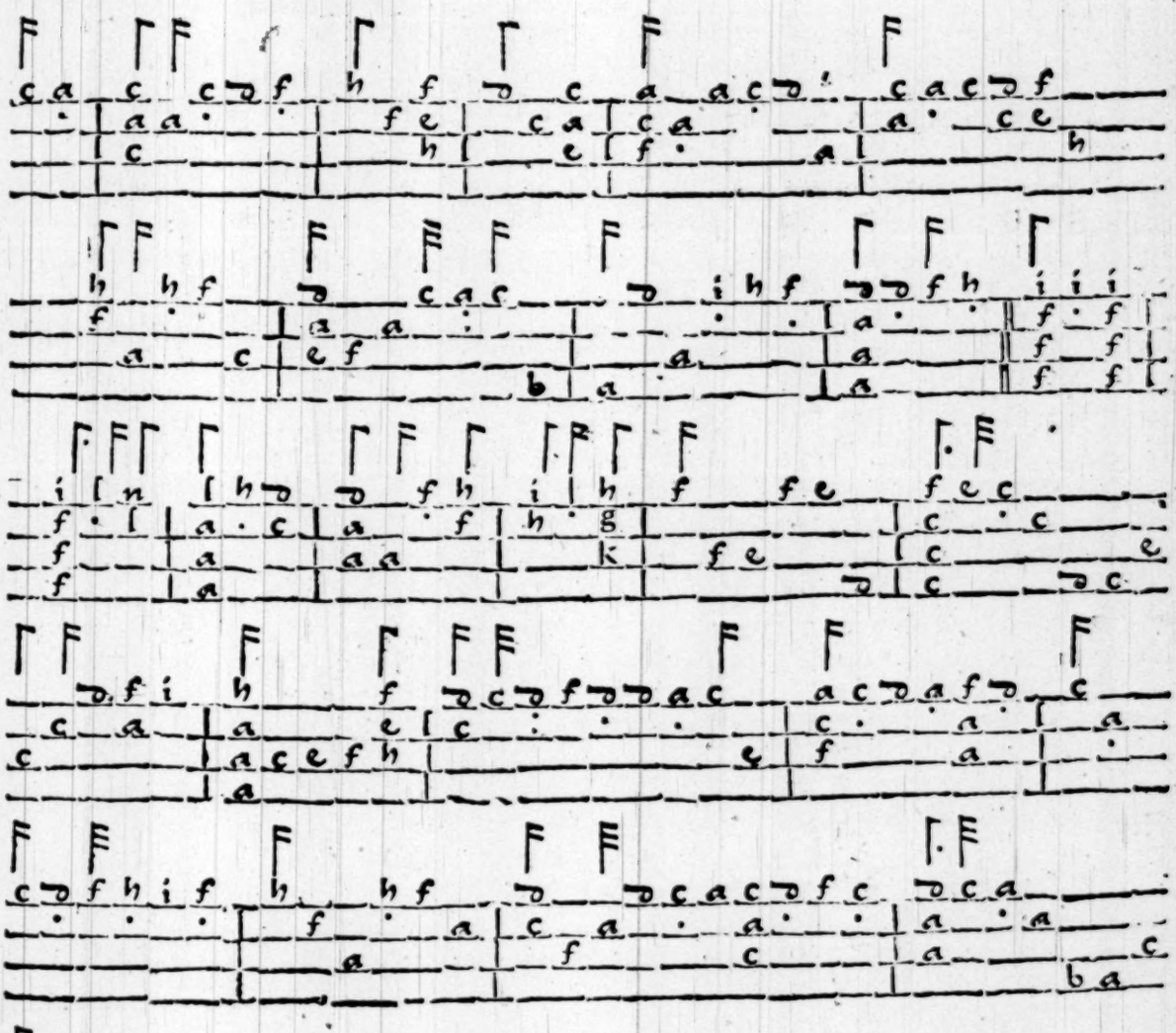

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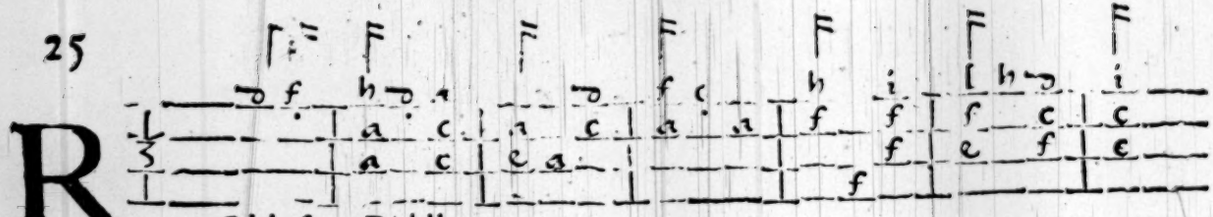

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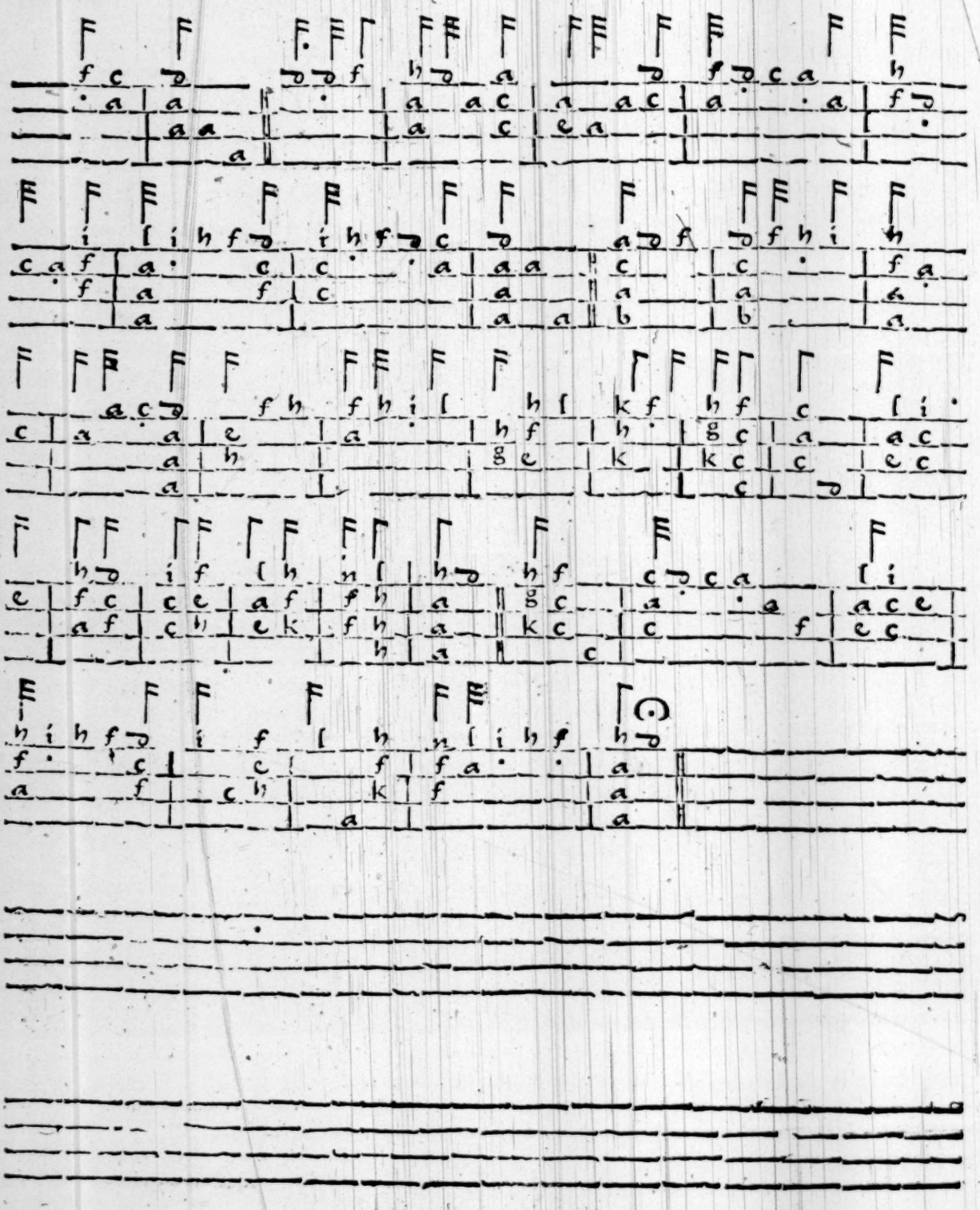
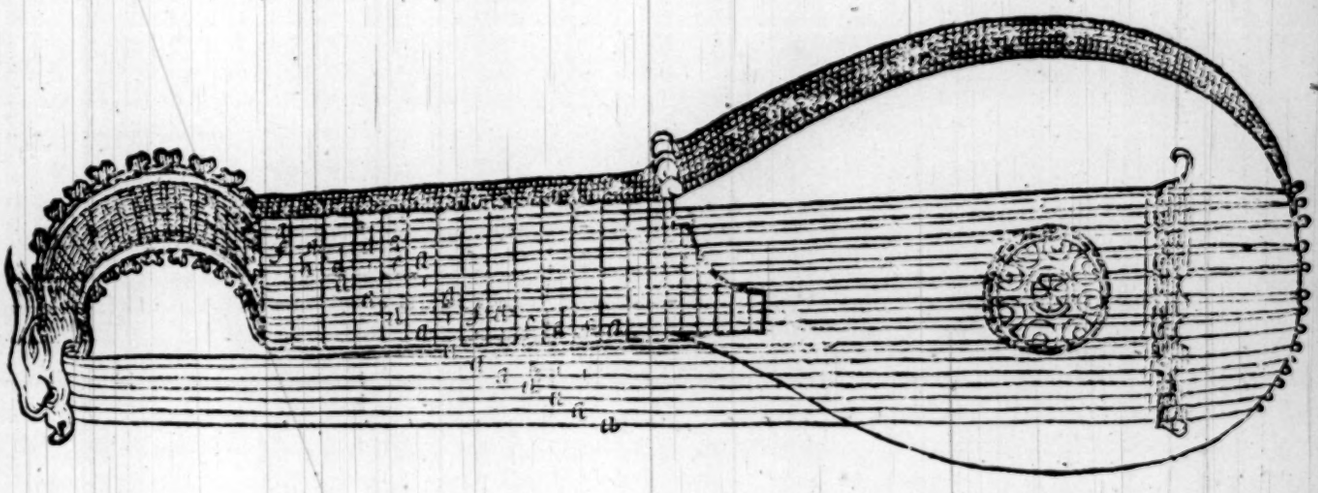


26

Shepheard ſhoot home.



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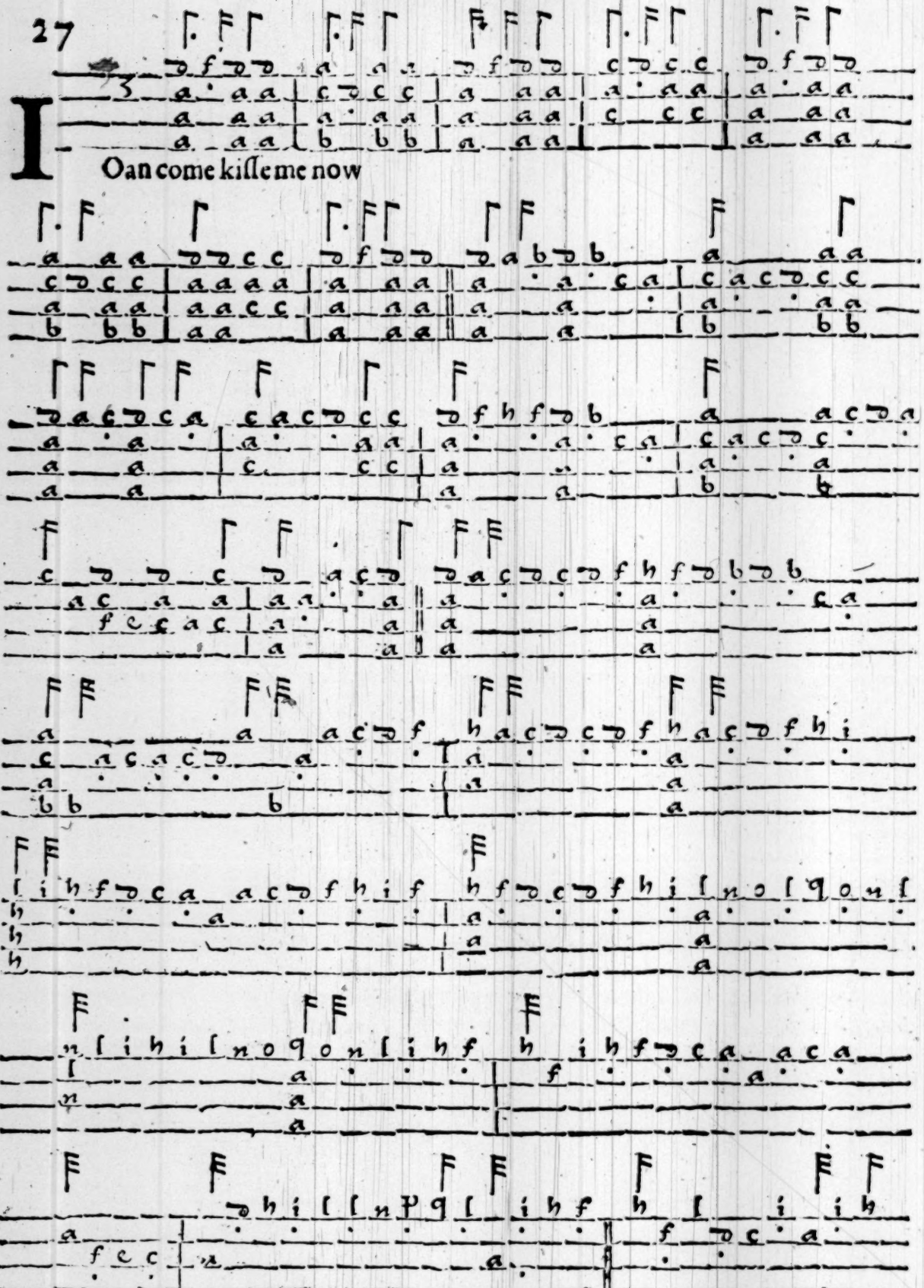

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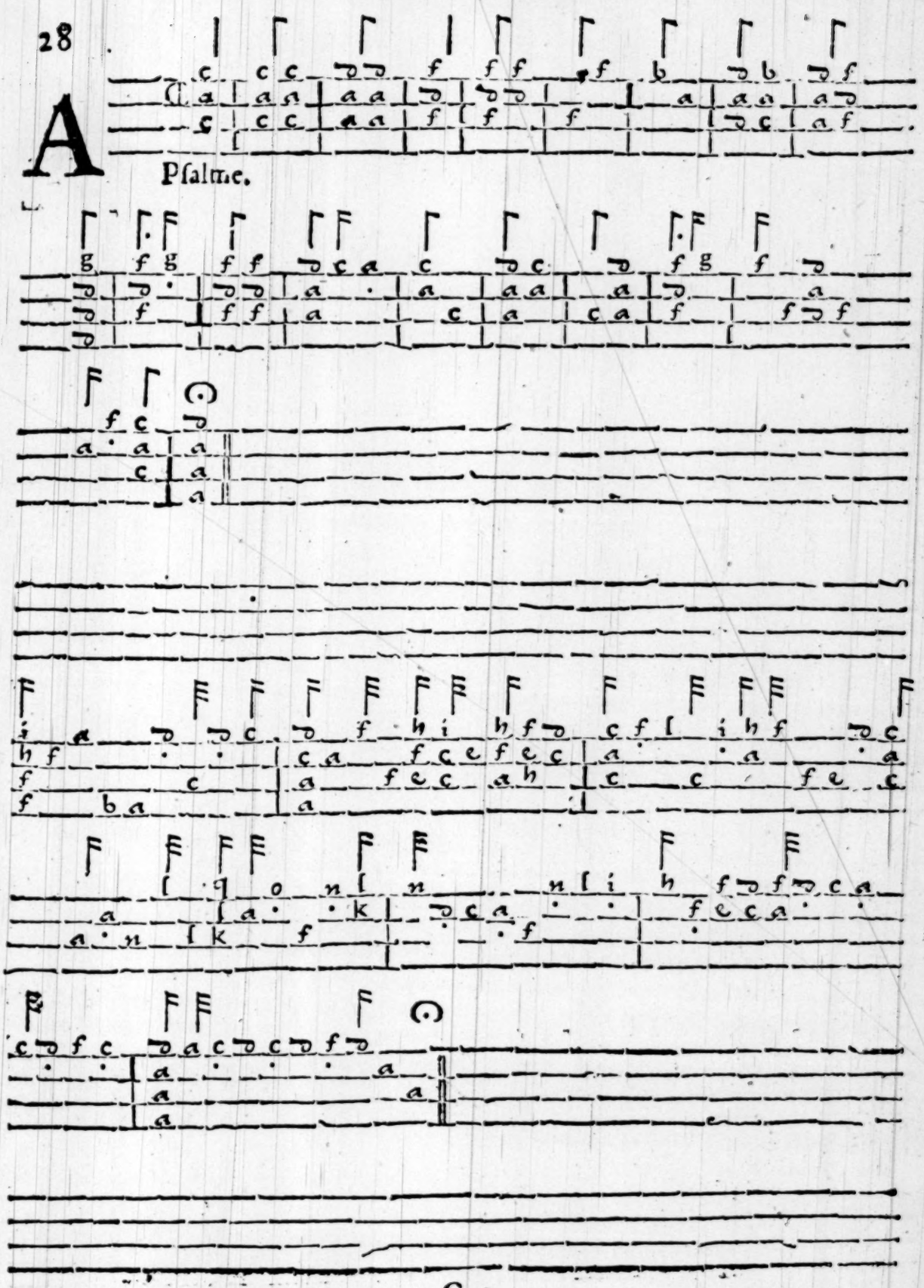

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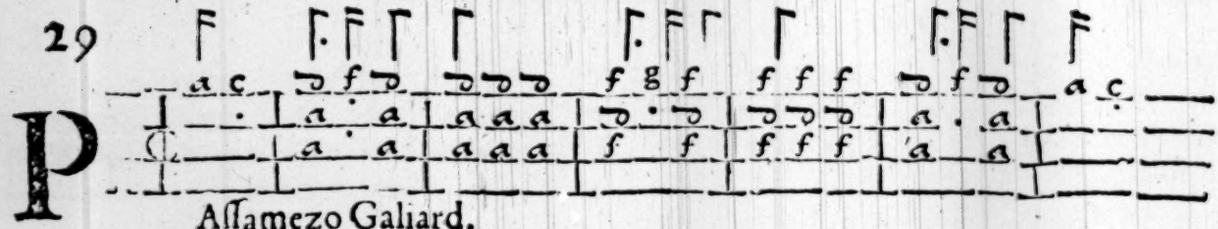

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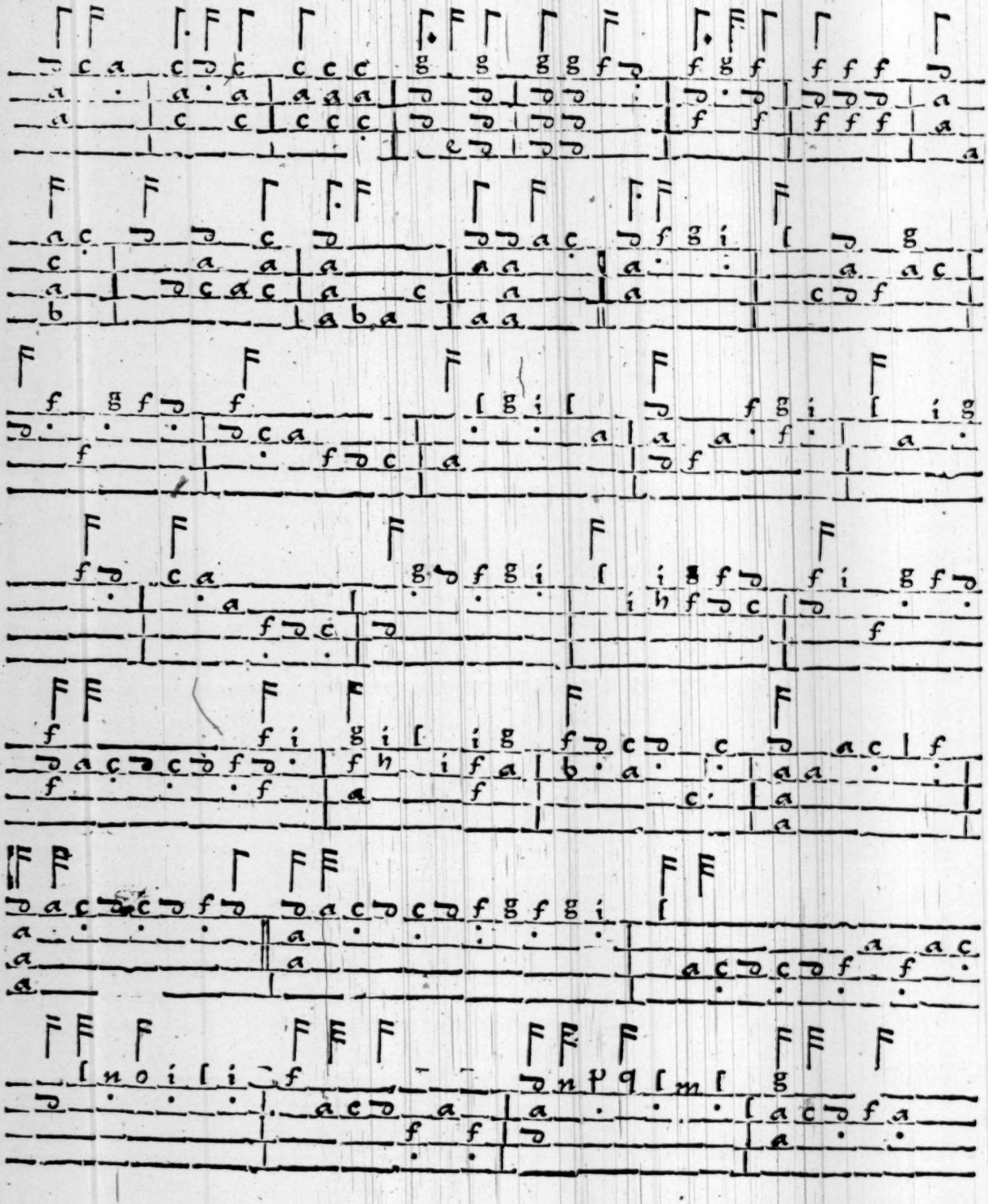
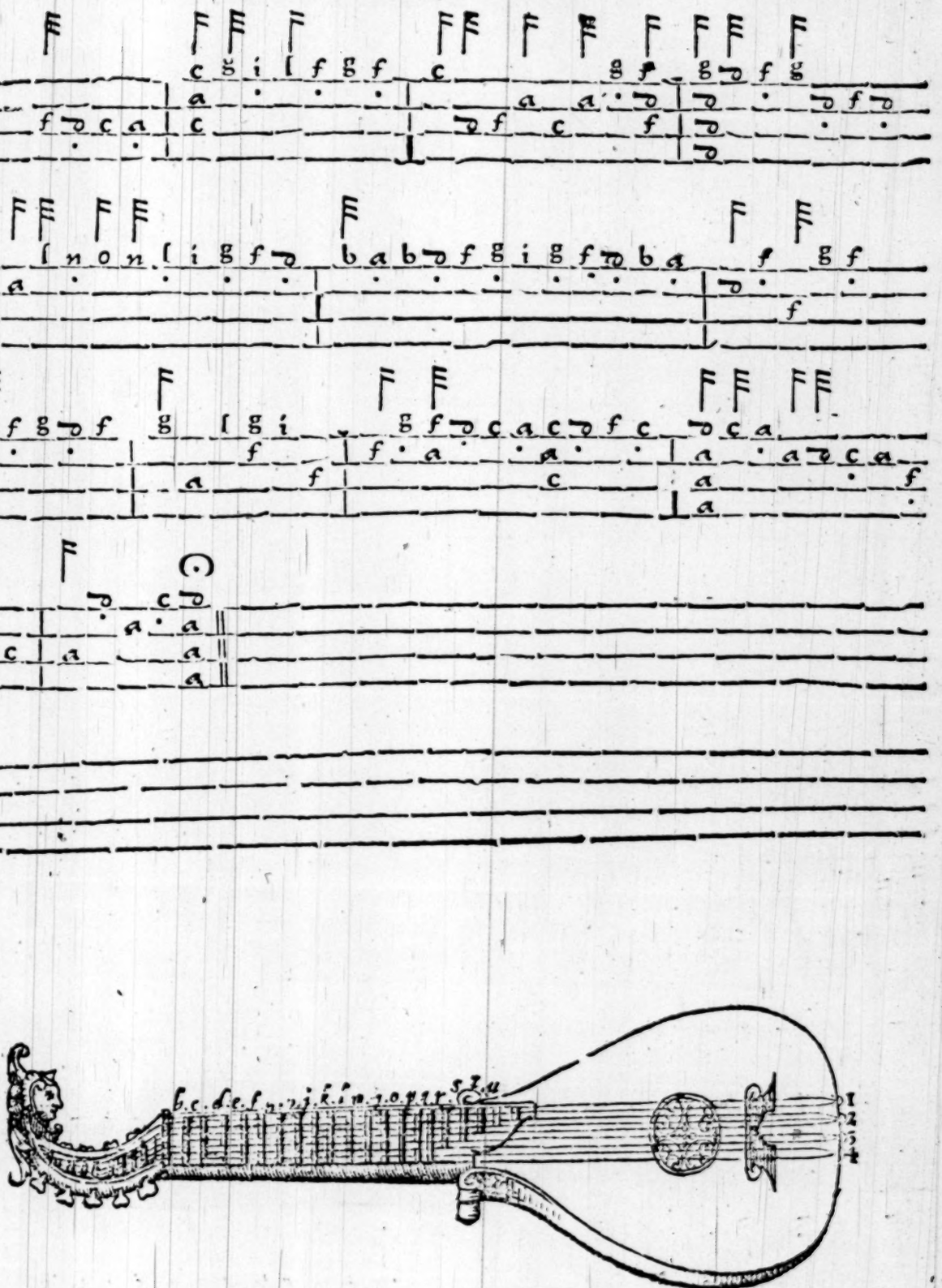


For the Citharen.



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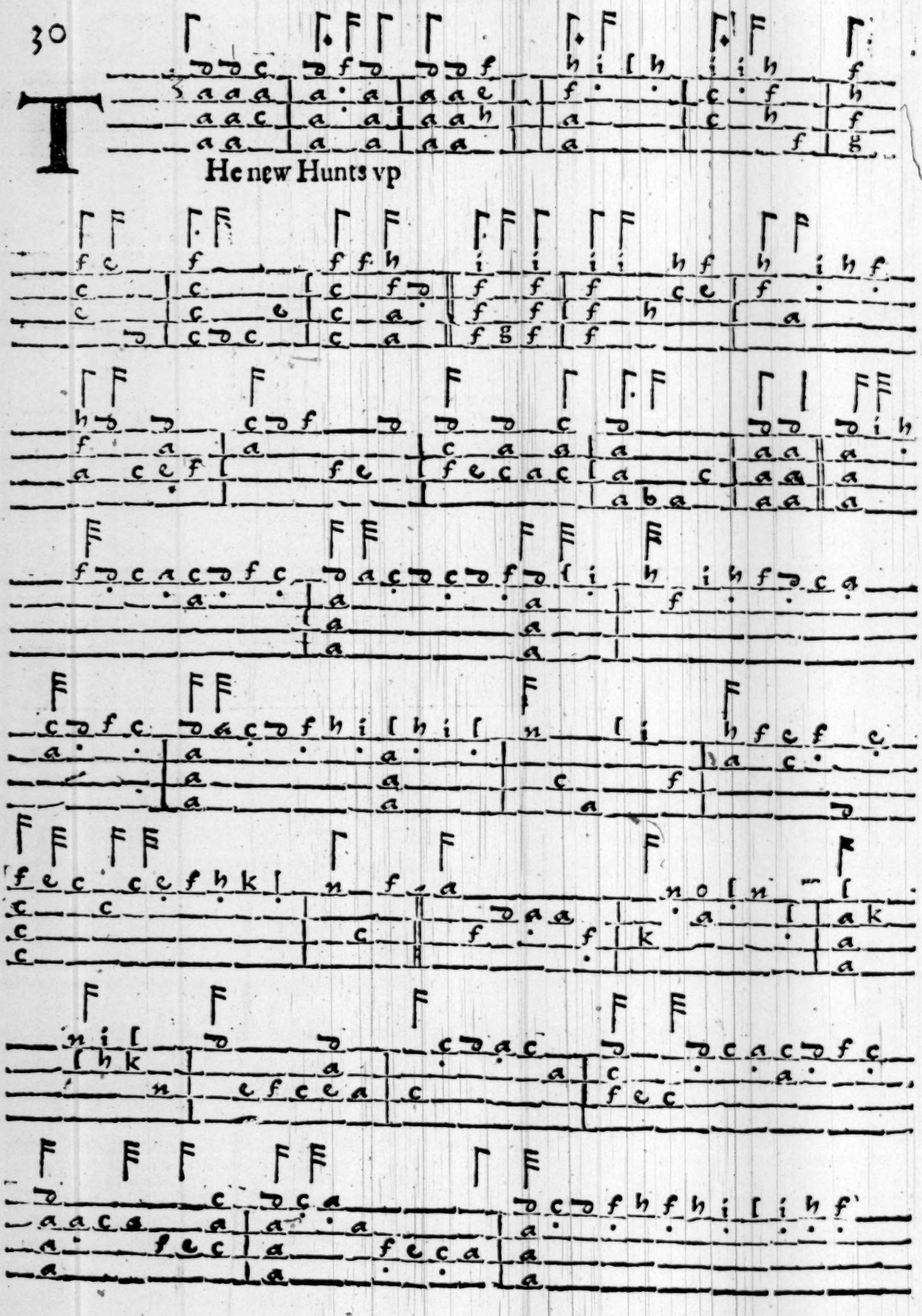

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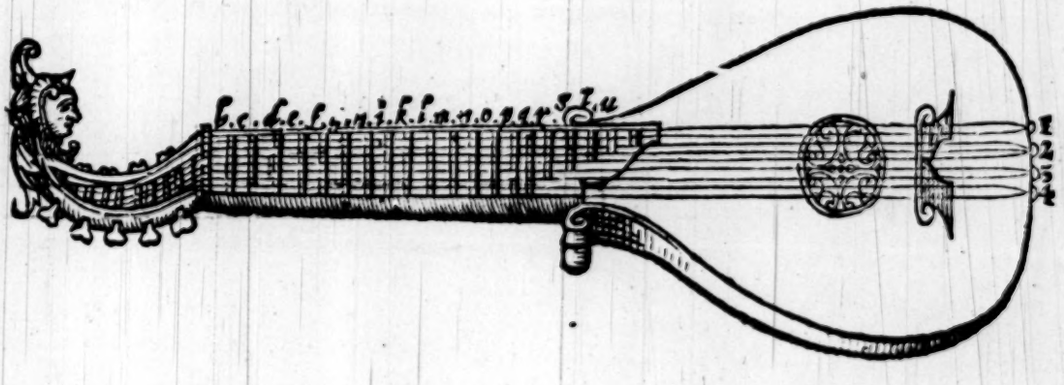

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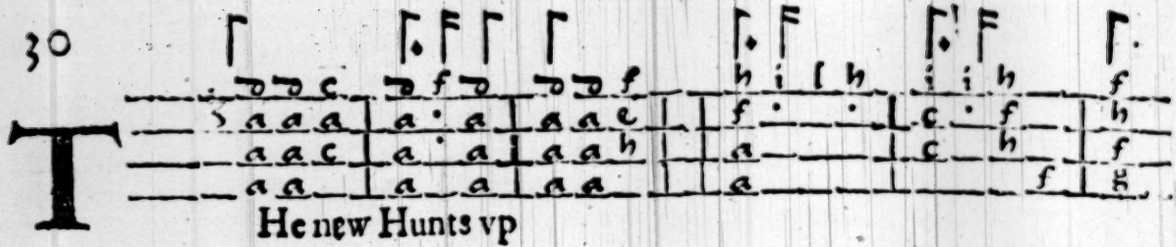
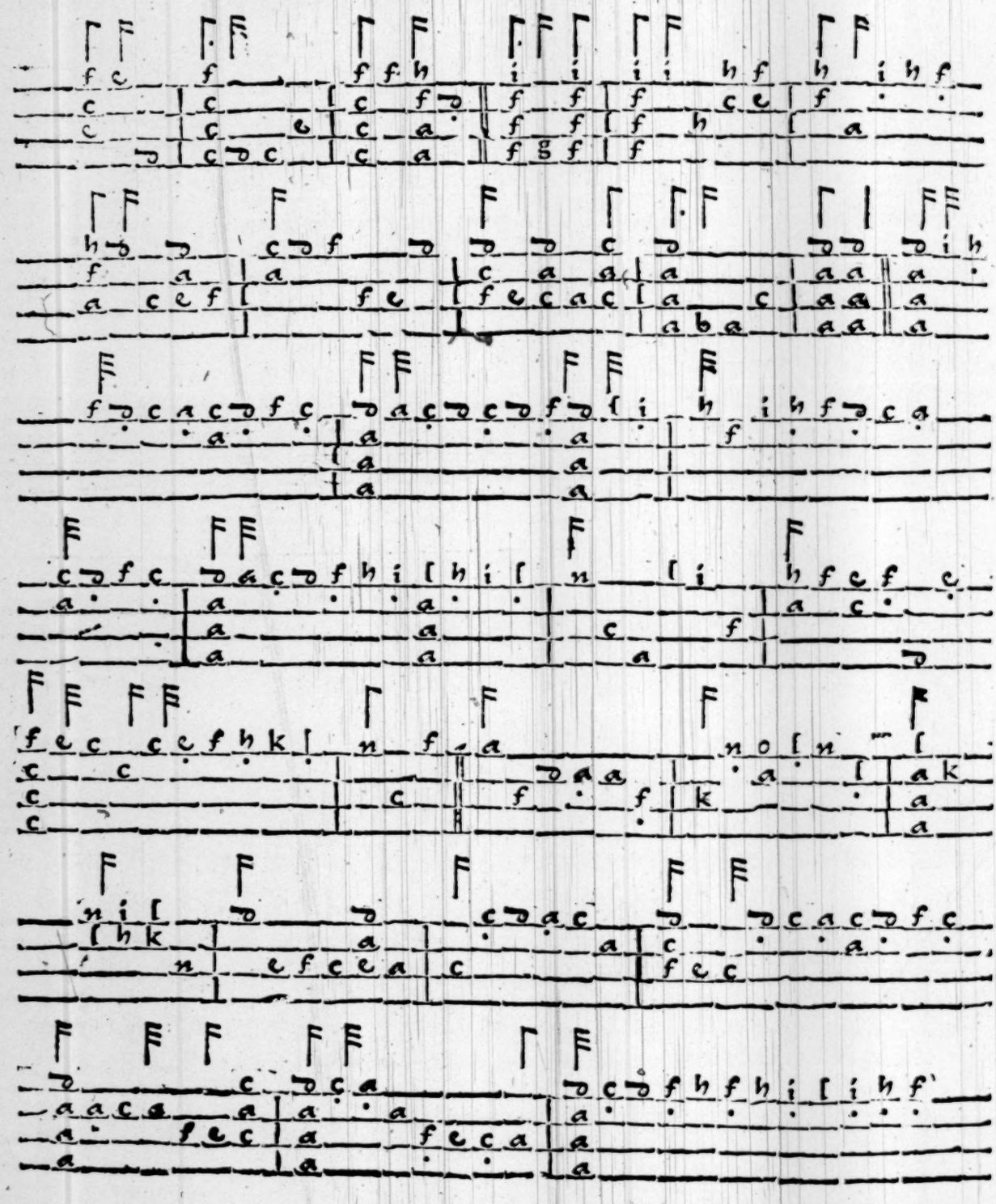
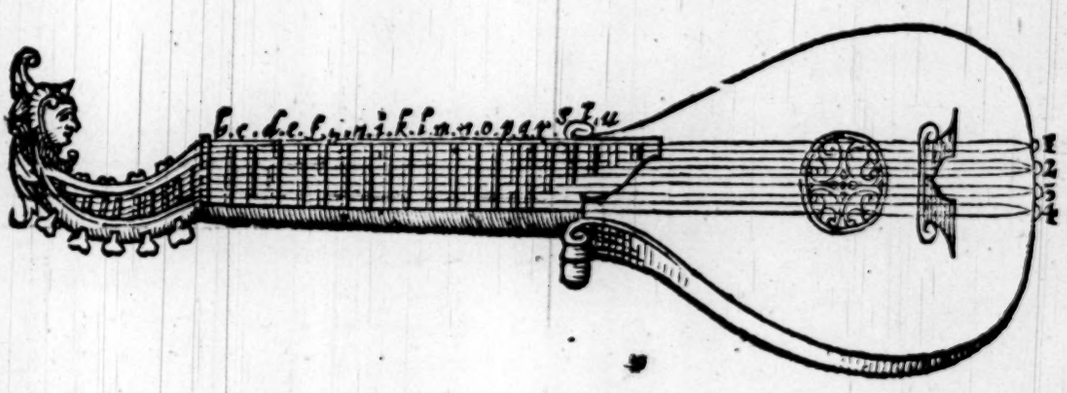
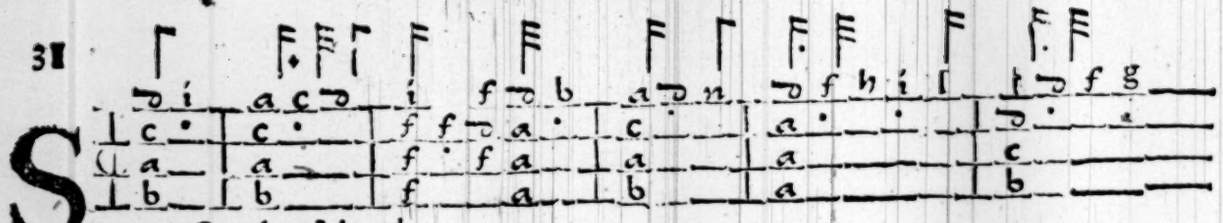


THe new Hunts vp

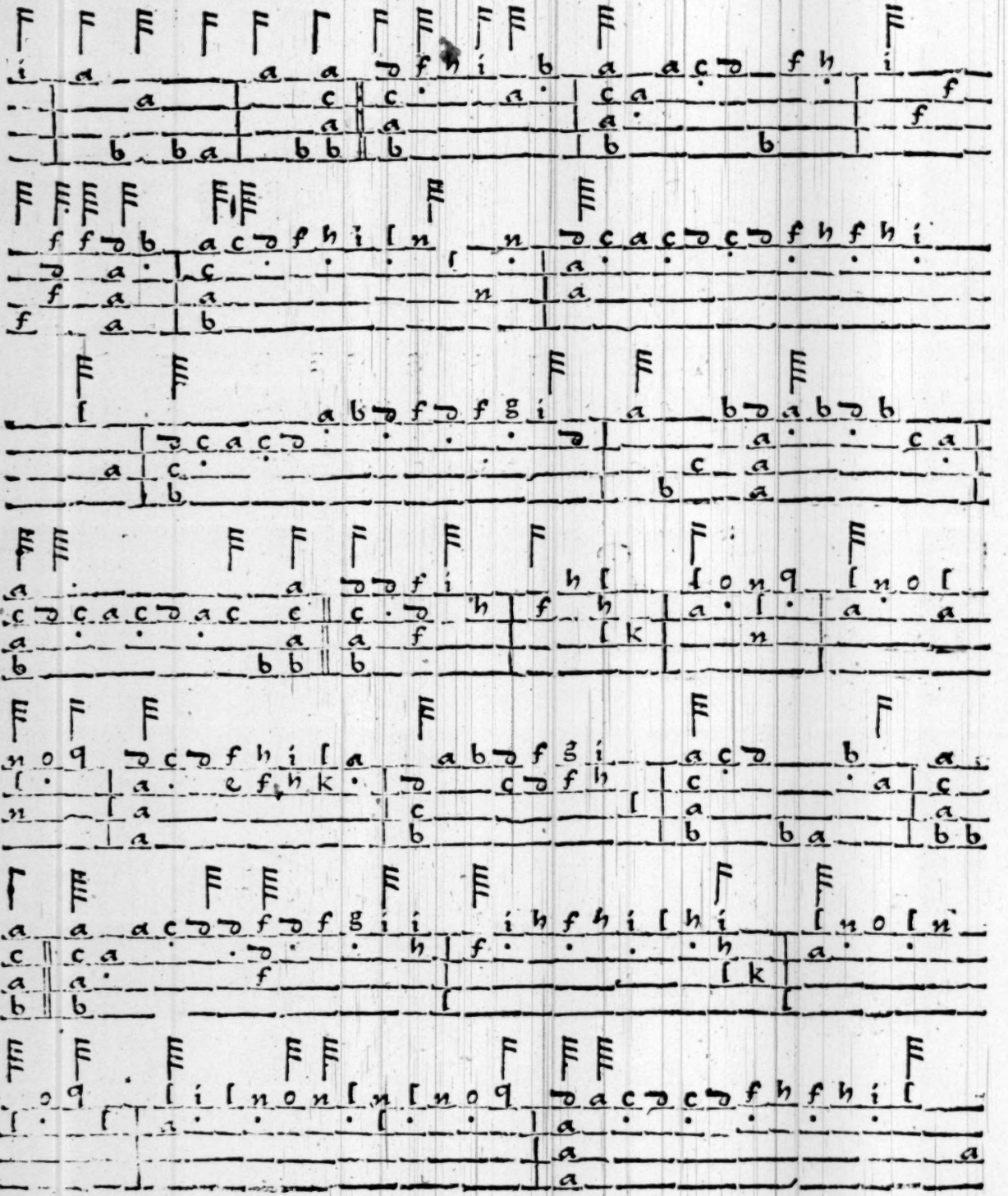


For the Citharen.





Souches March.



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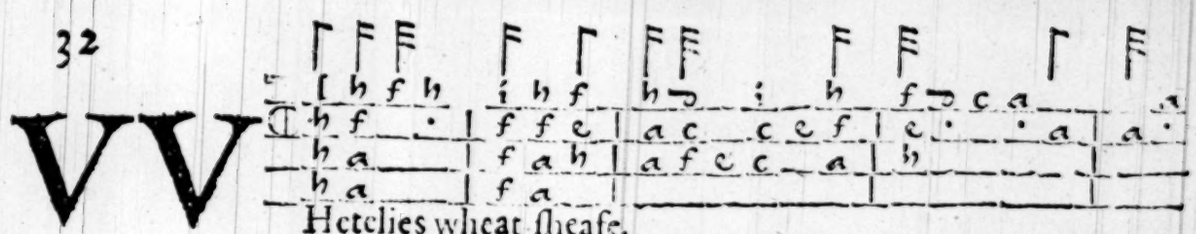
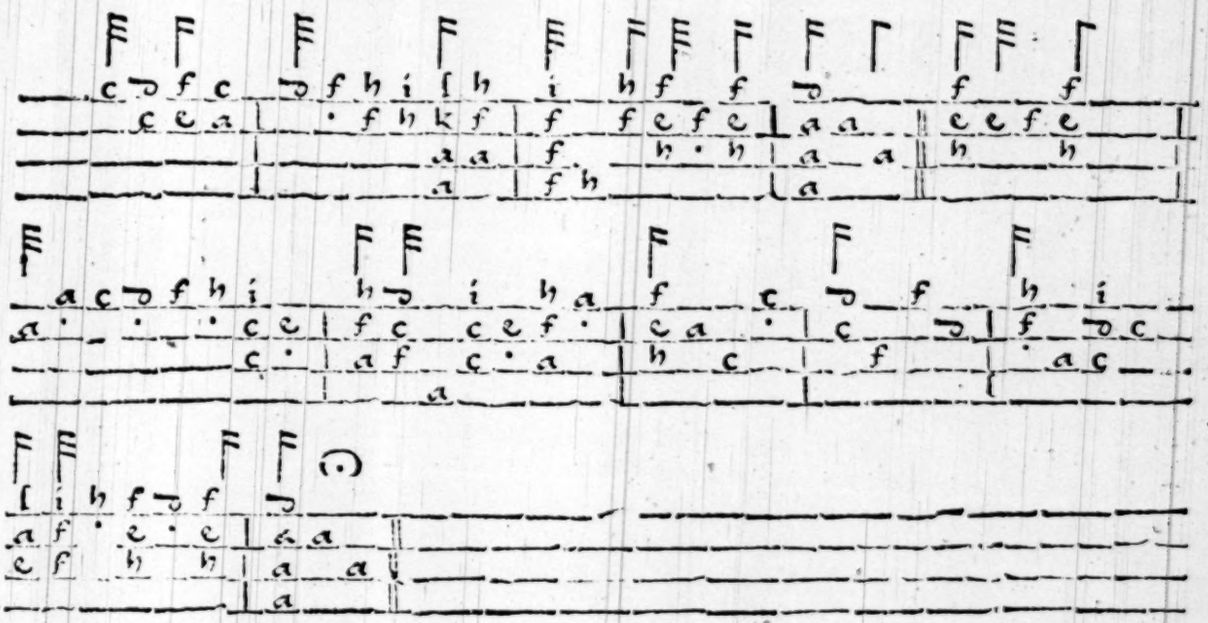
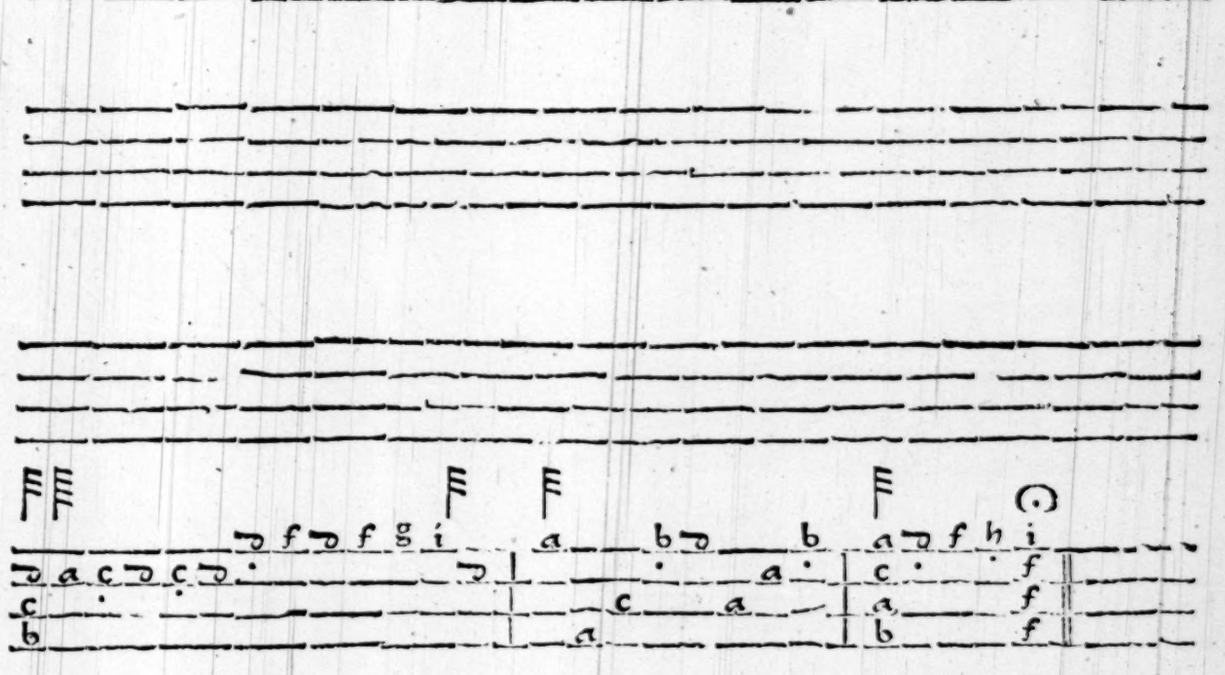
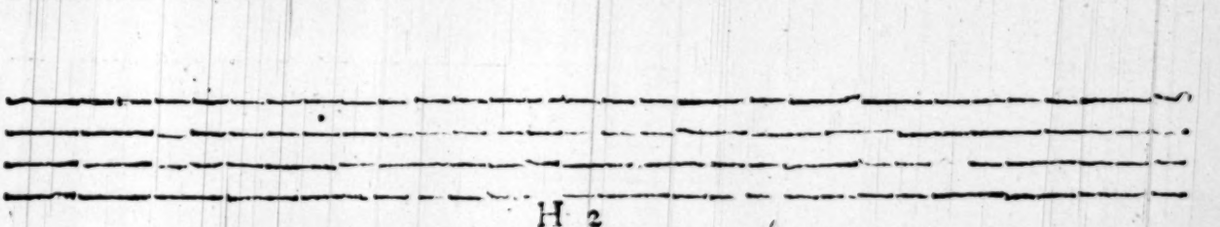


VV Hetelies wheat sheafe.







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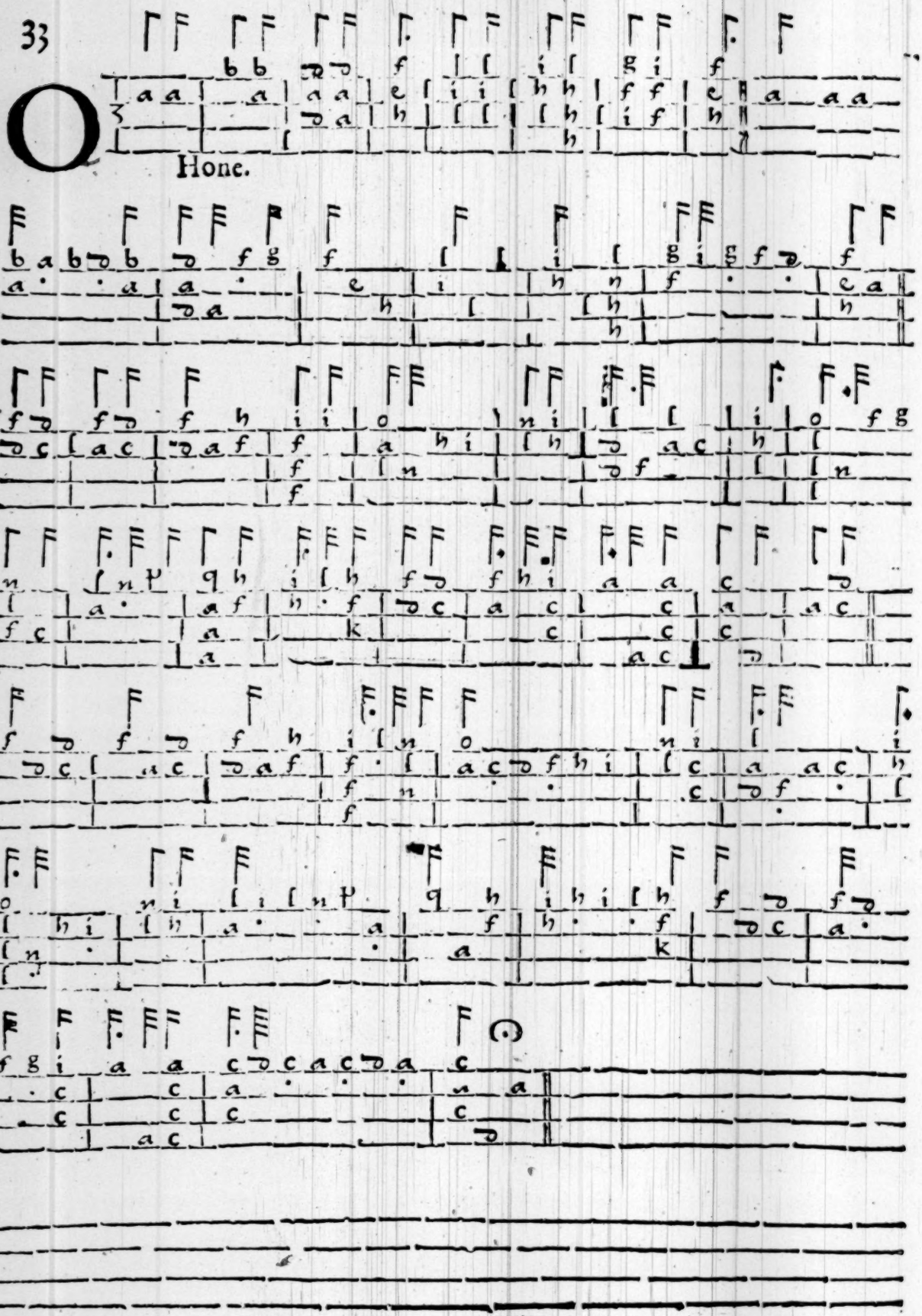

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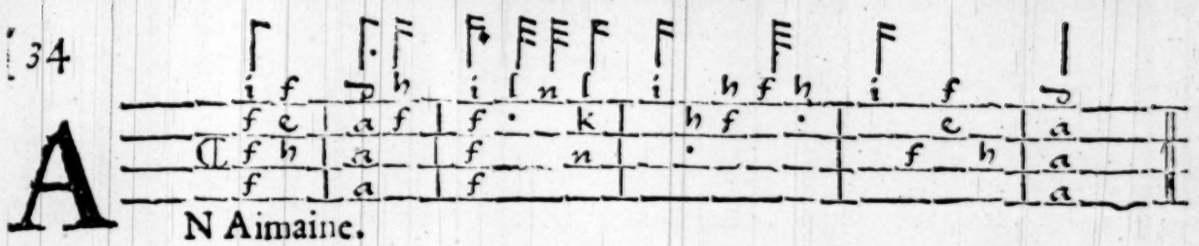

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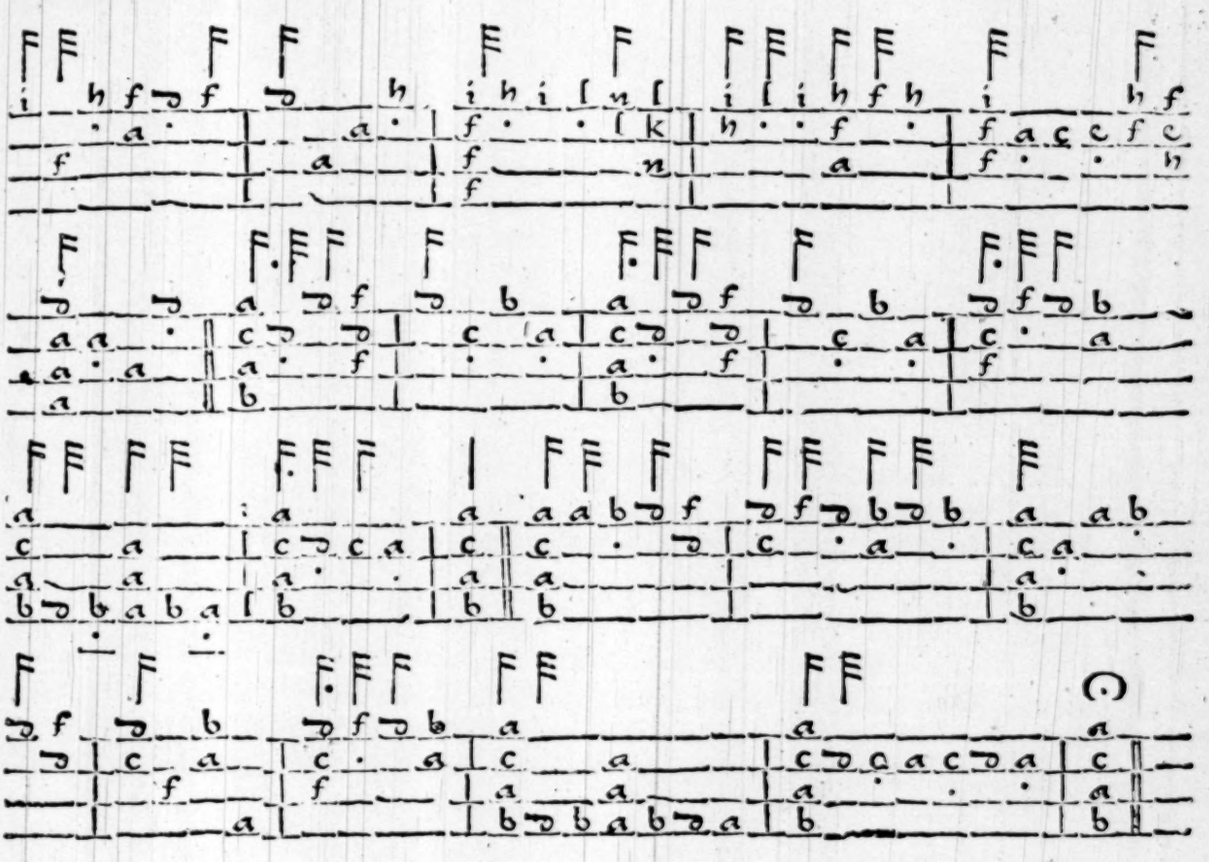

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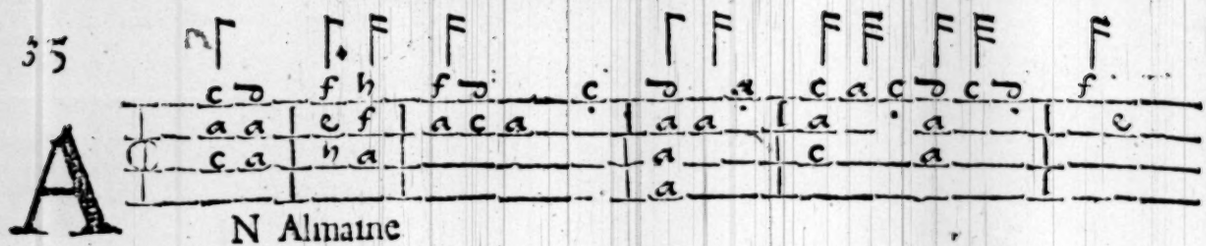
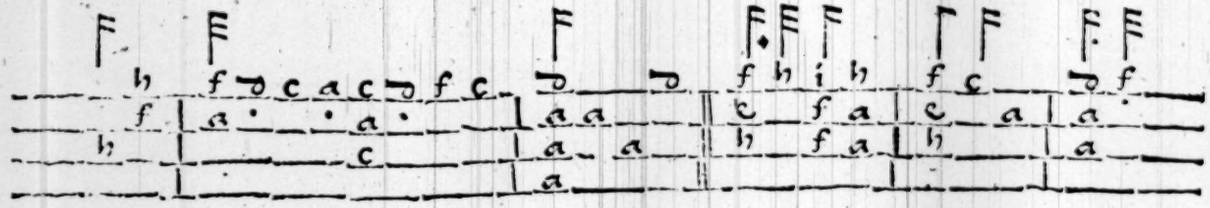
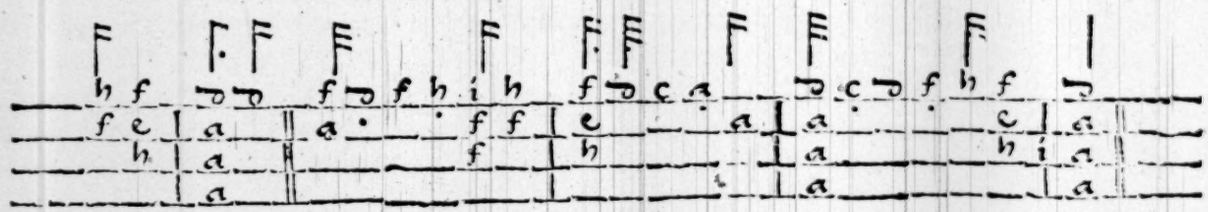
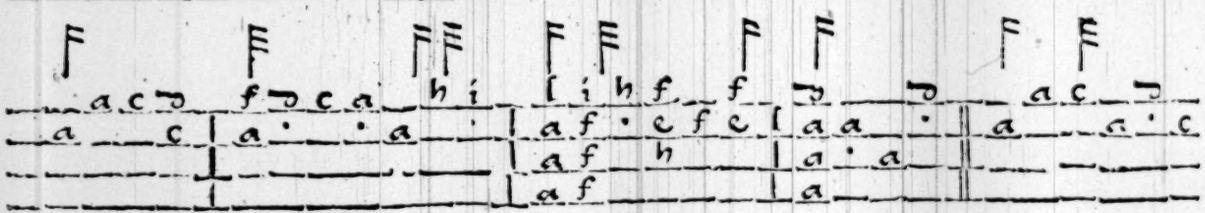
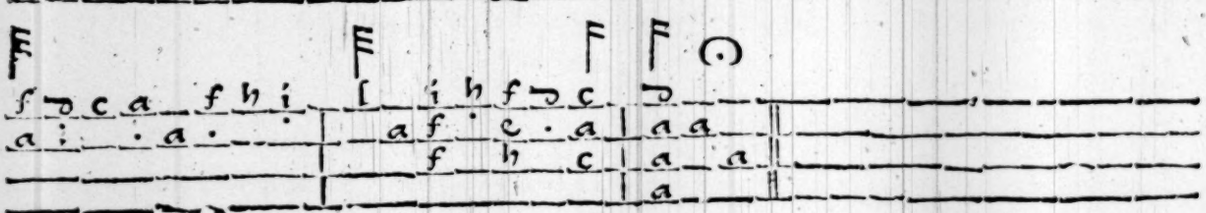
AN Almaine





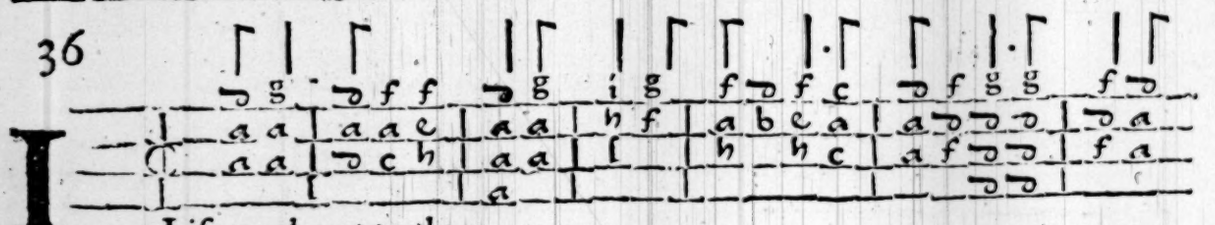






36

I Lift my heart to thee.



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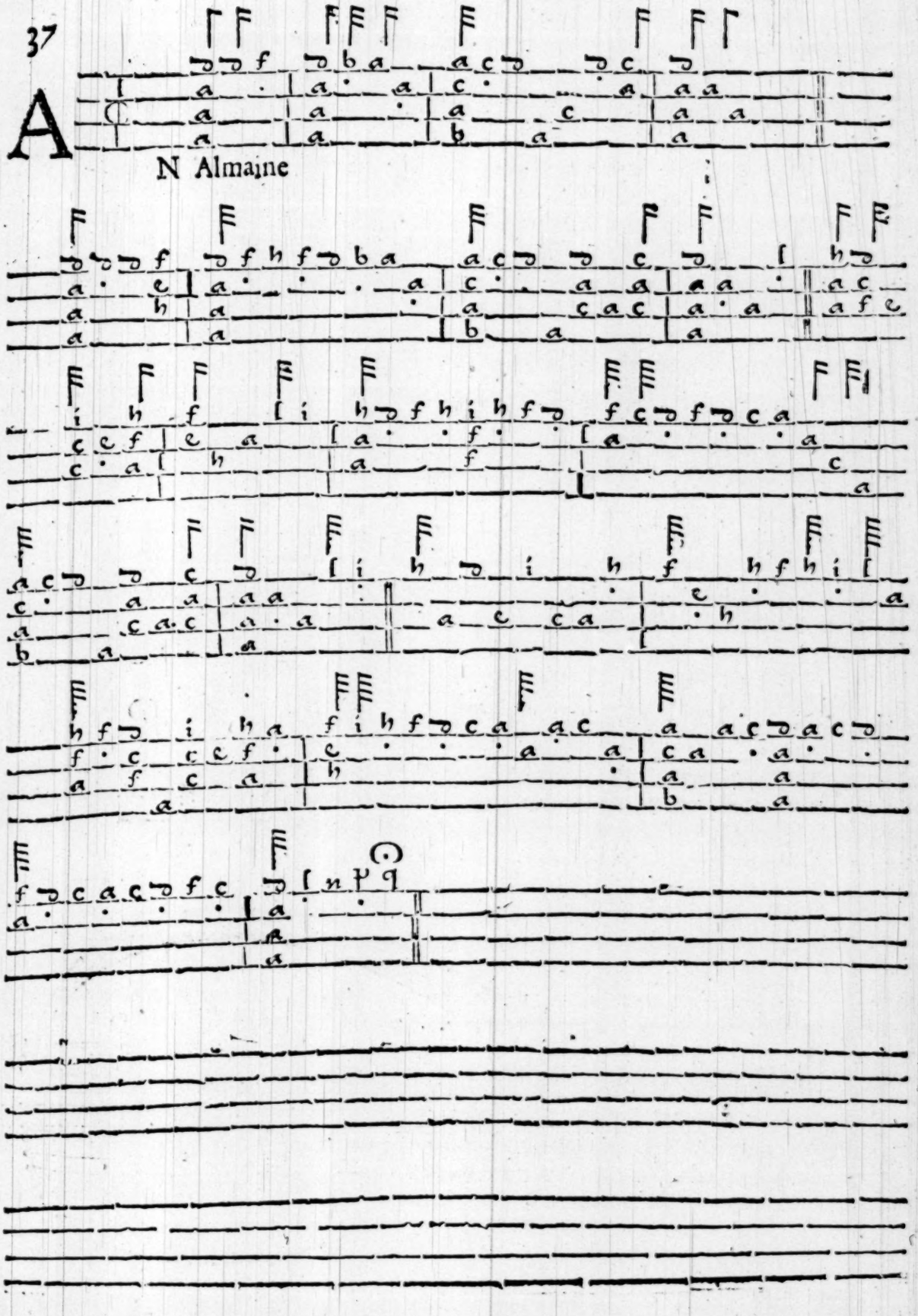

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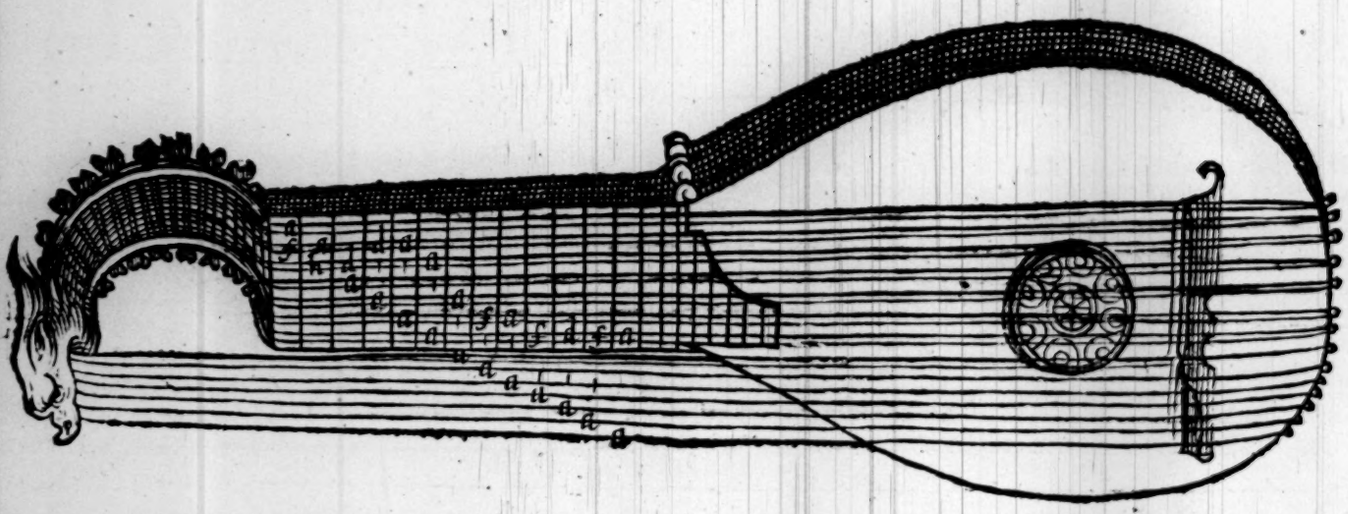
R Obinsons modicum



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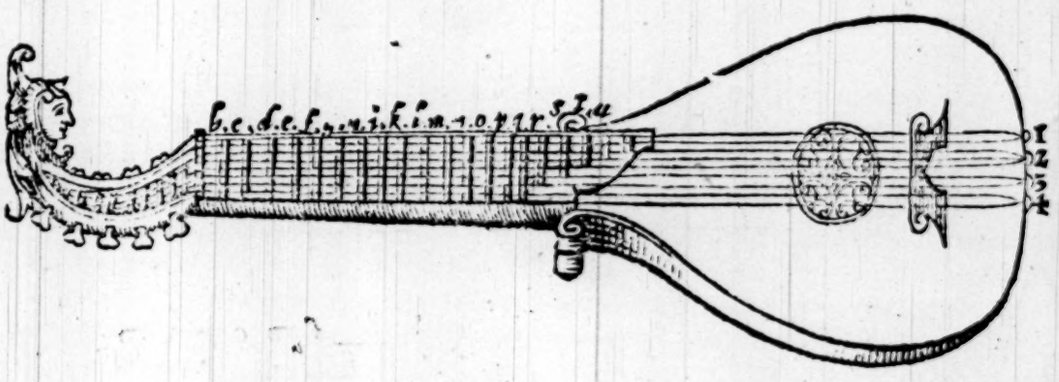

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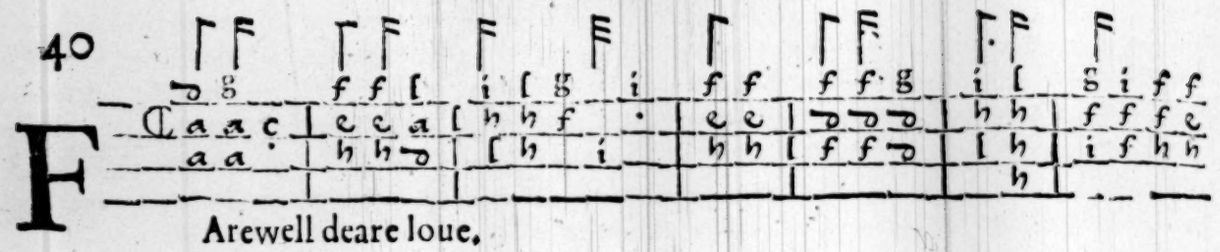
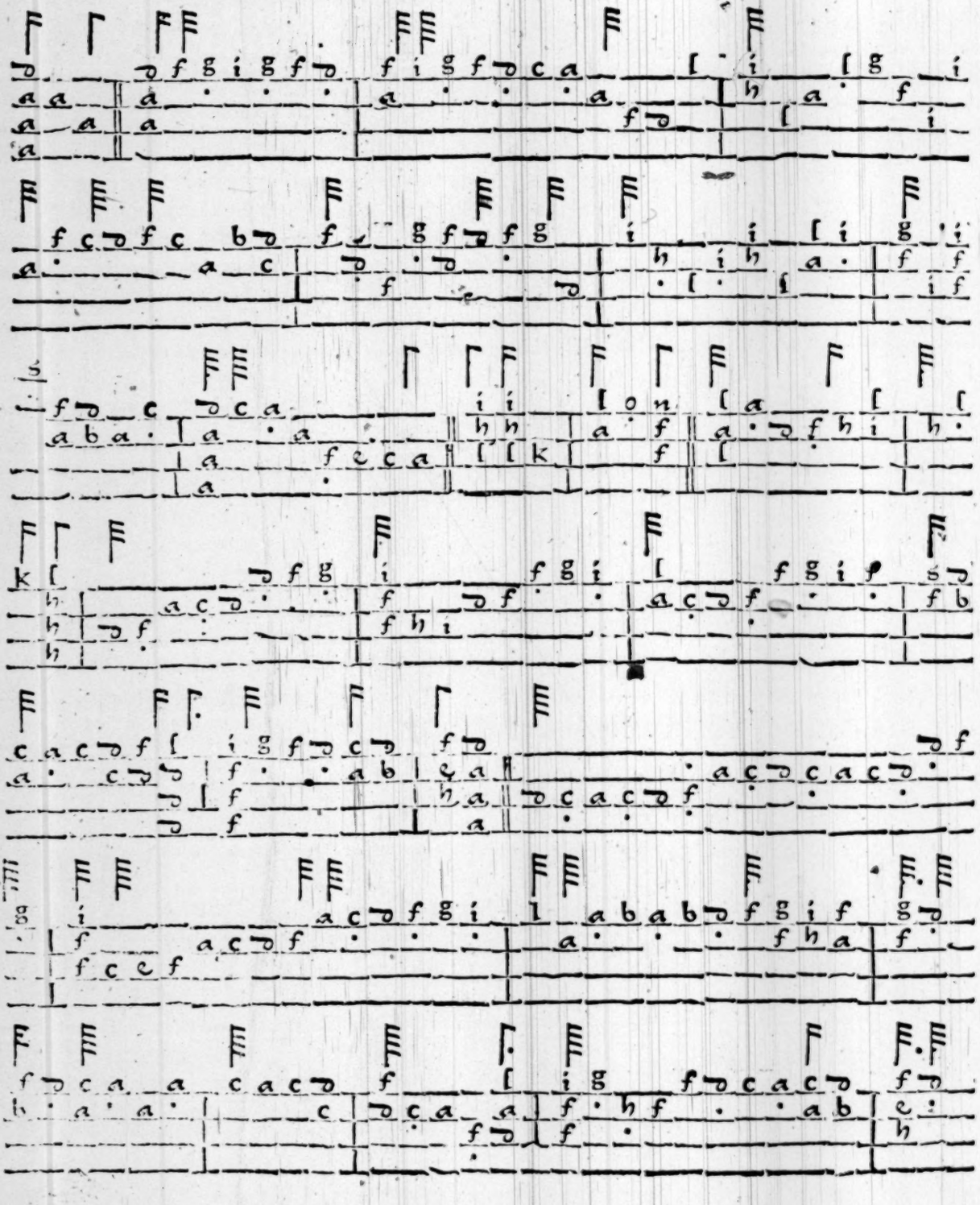


Farewell deare loue,



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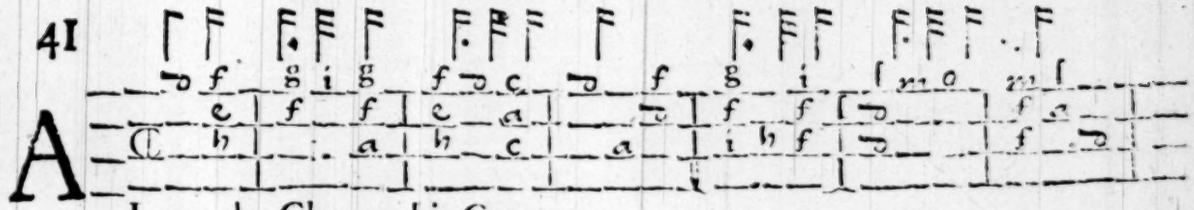
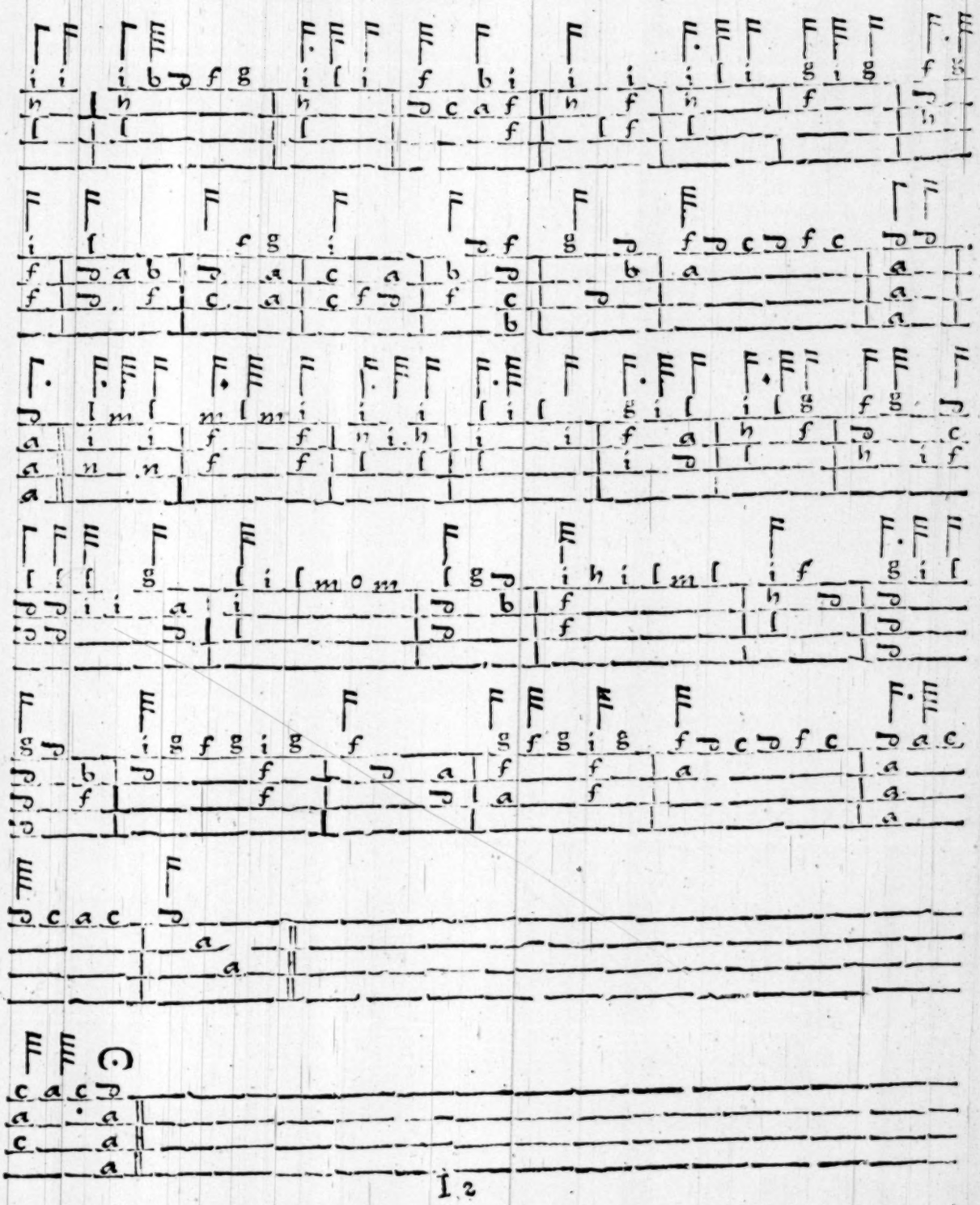


ALexander Chezum his Curranta.



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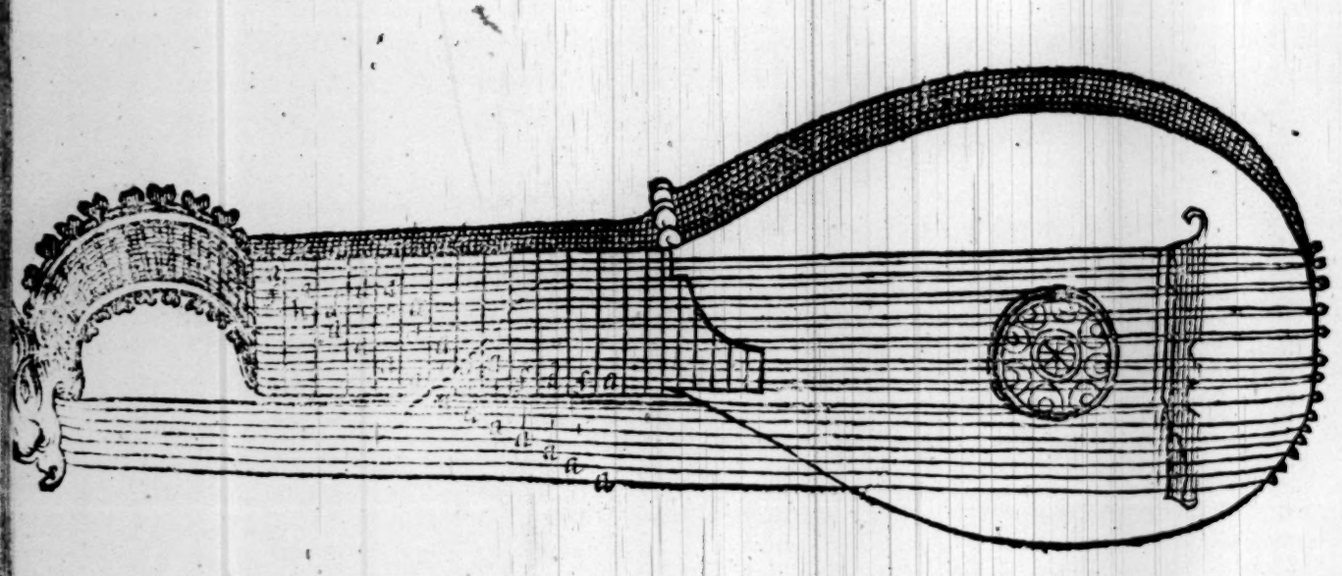

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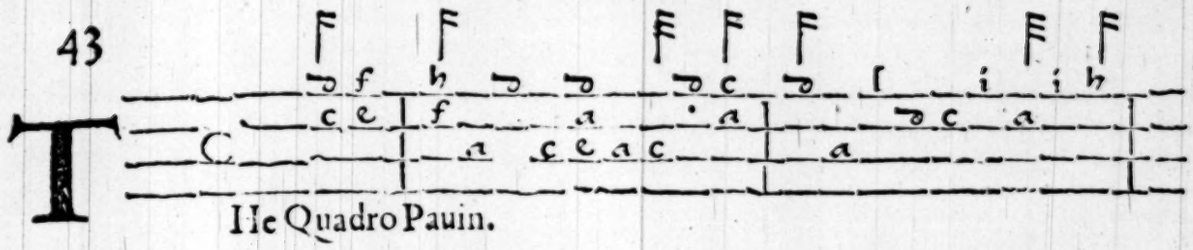
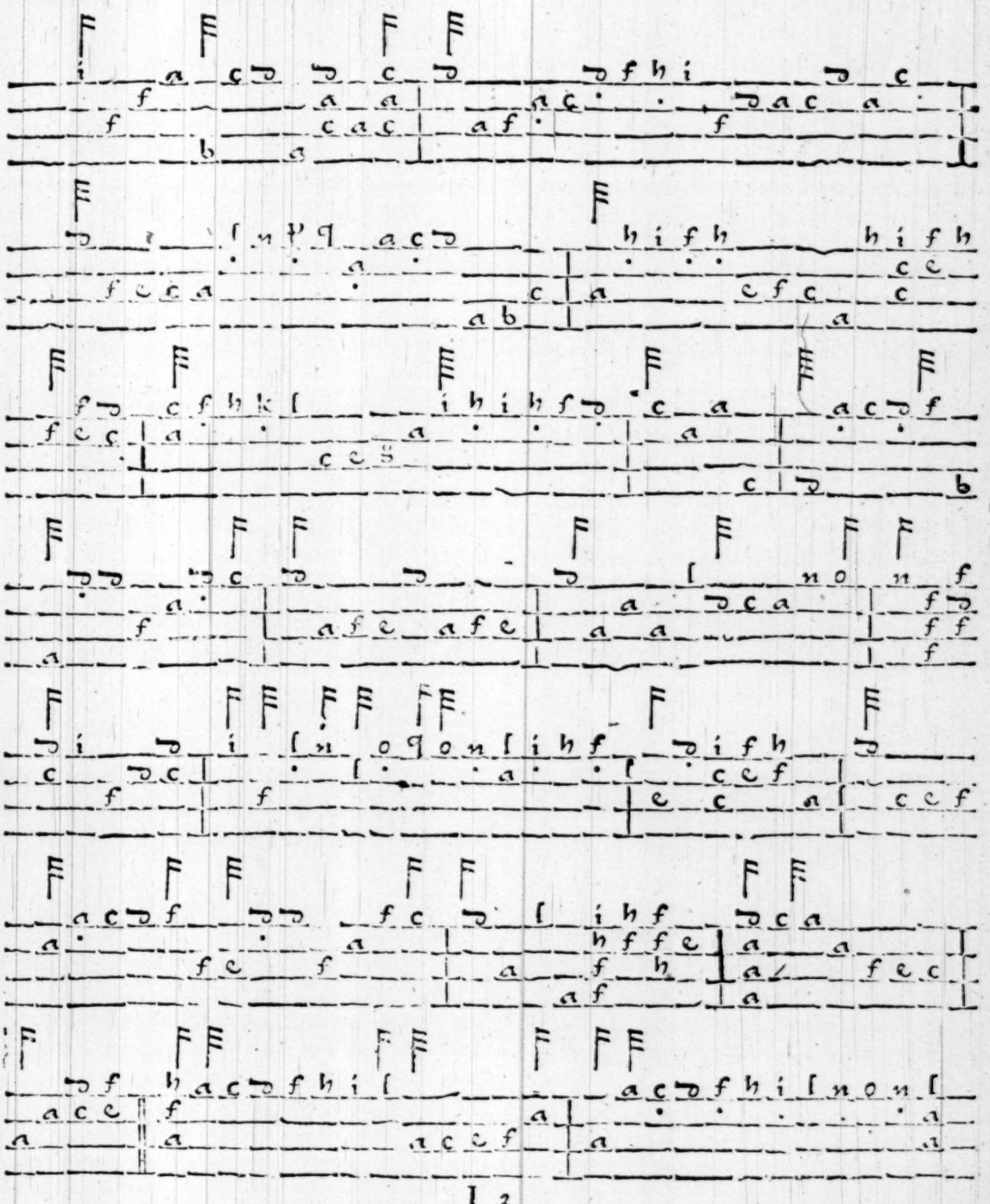


THe Quadro Pauin.



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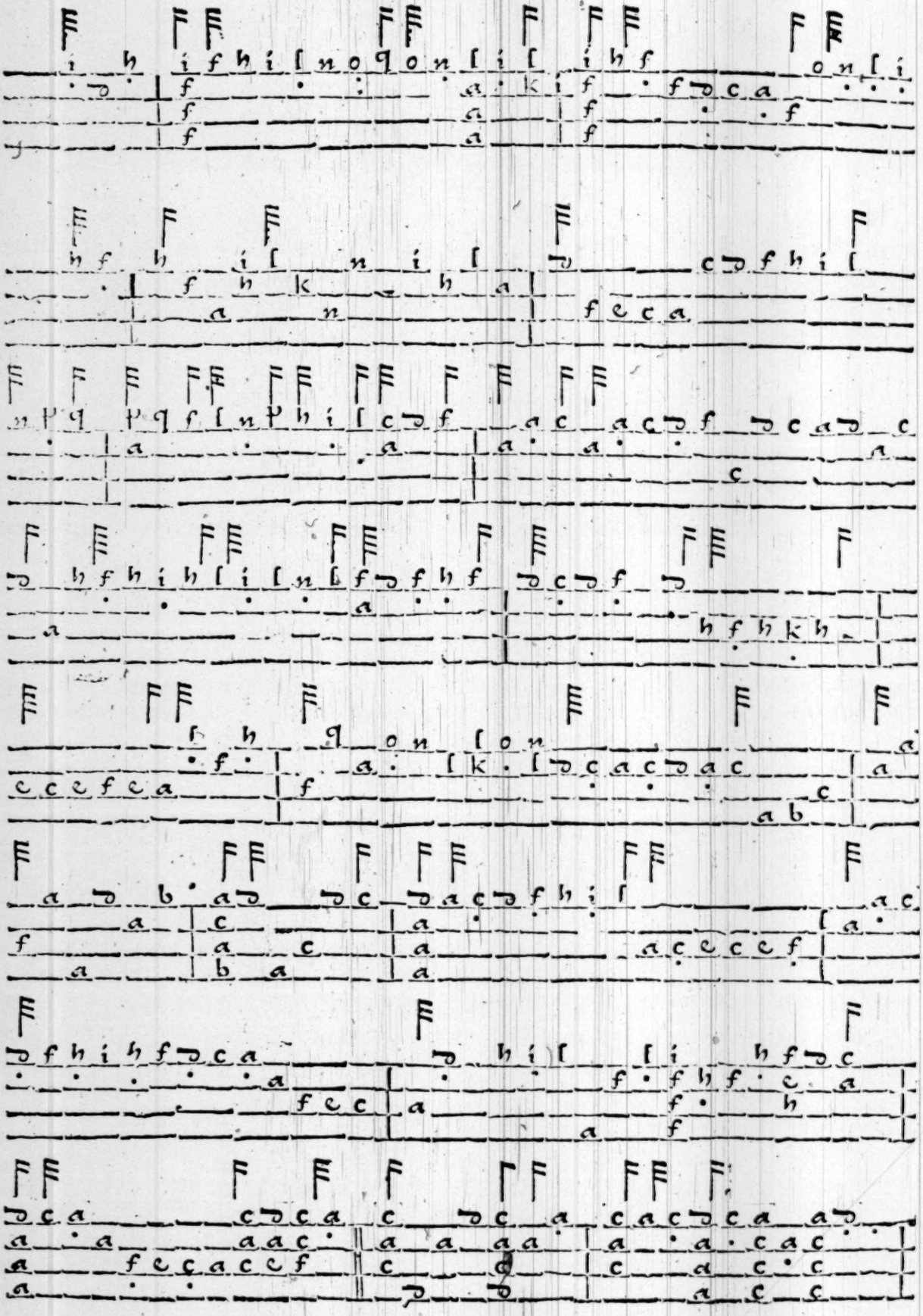
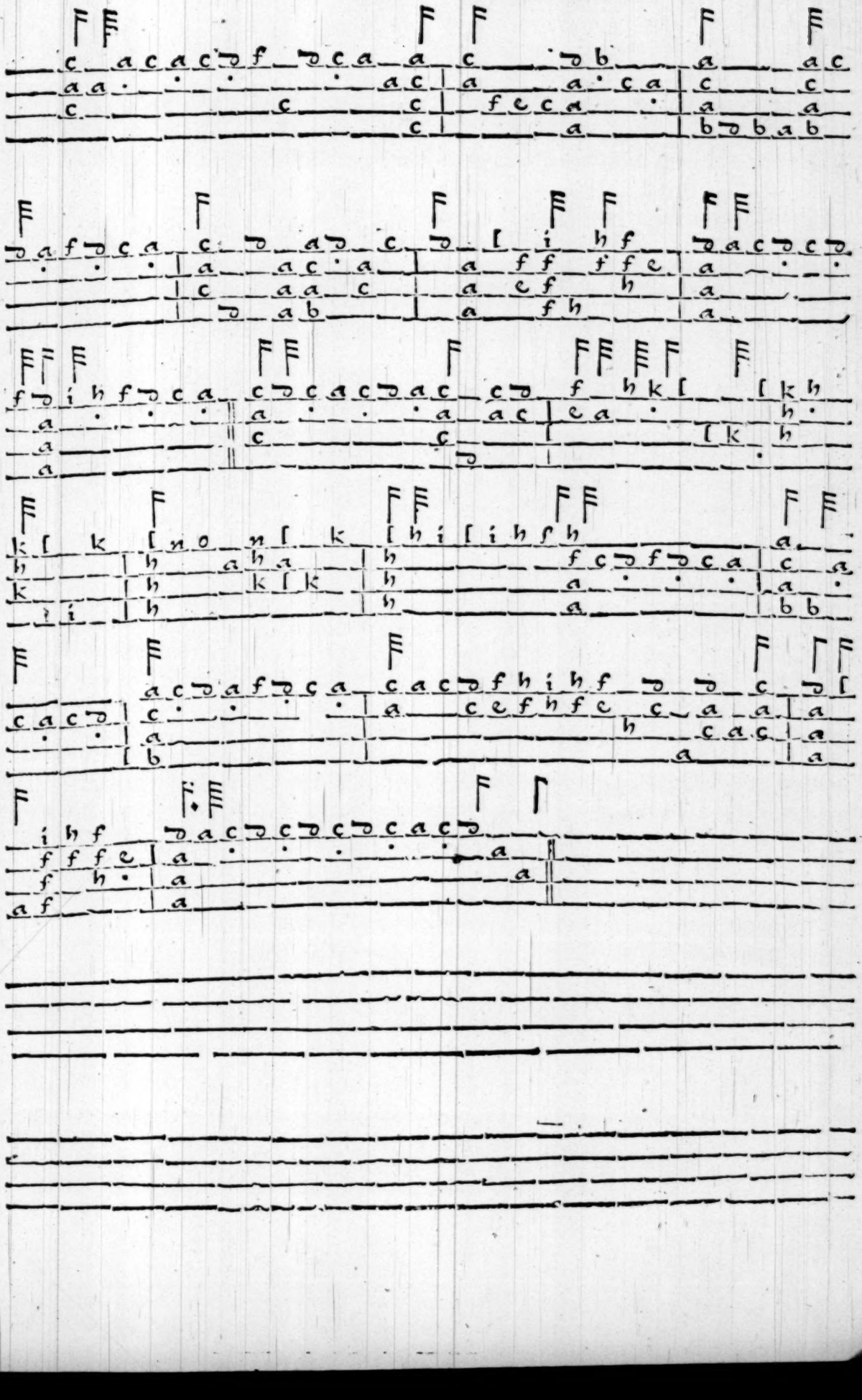


For the Citharen.



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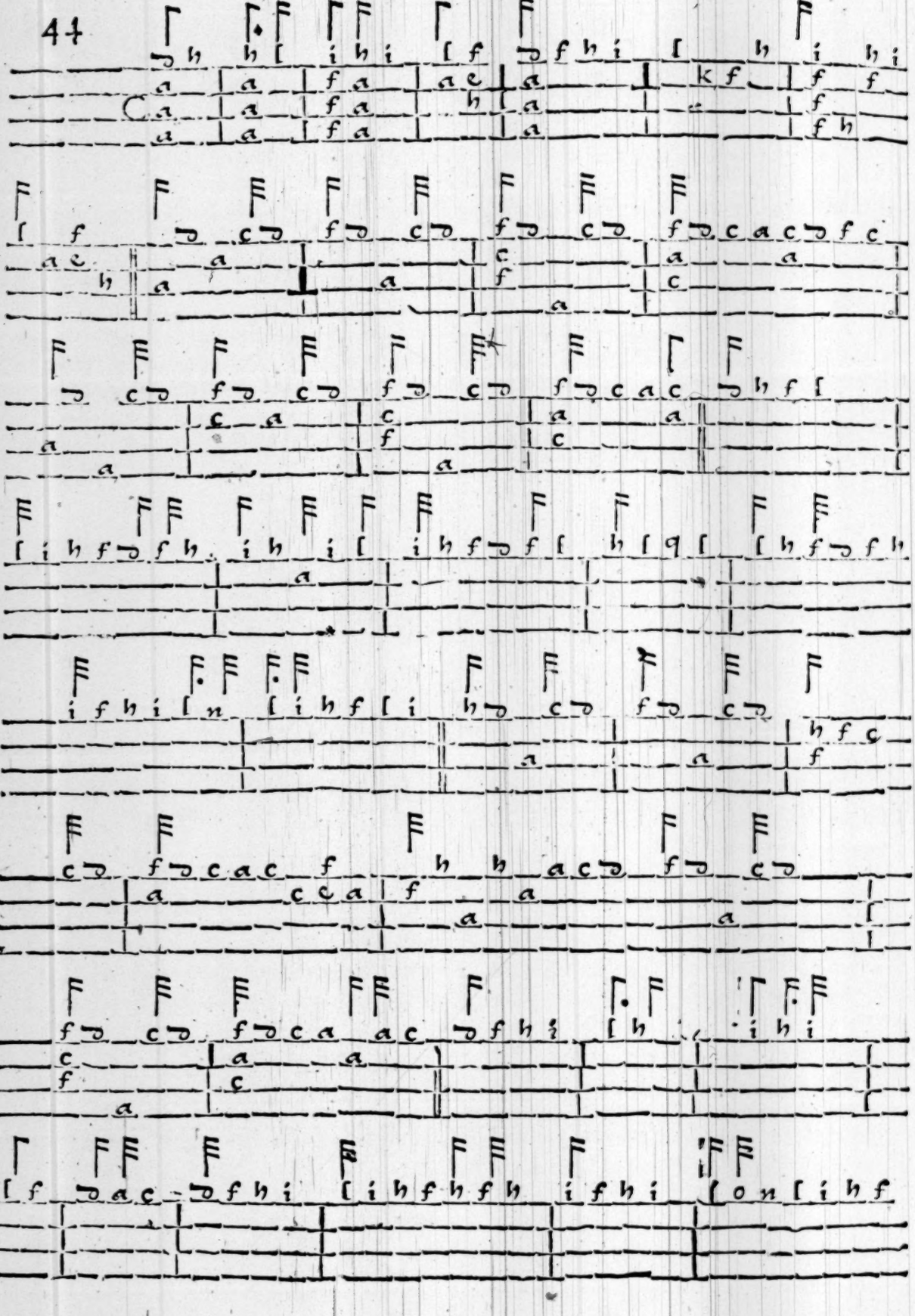
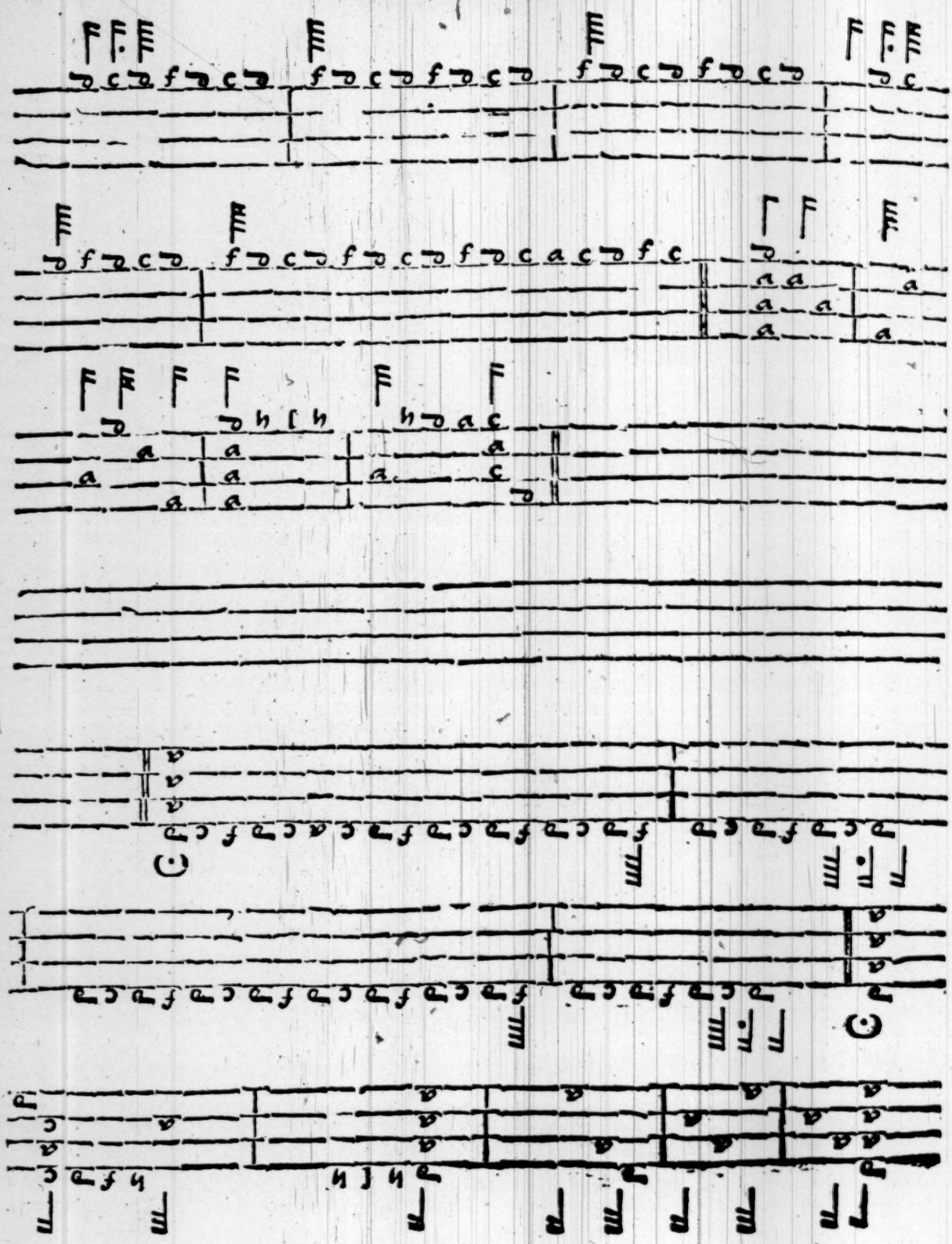


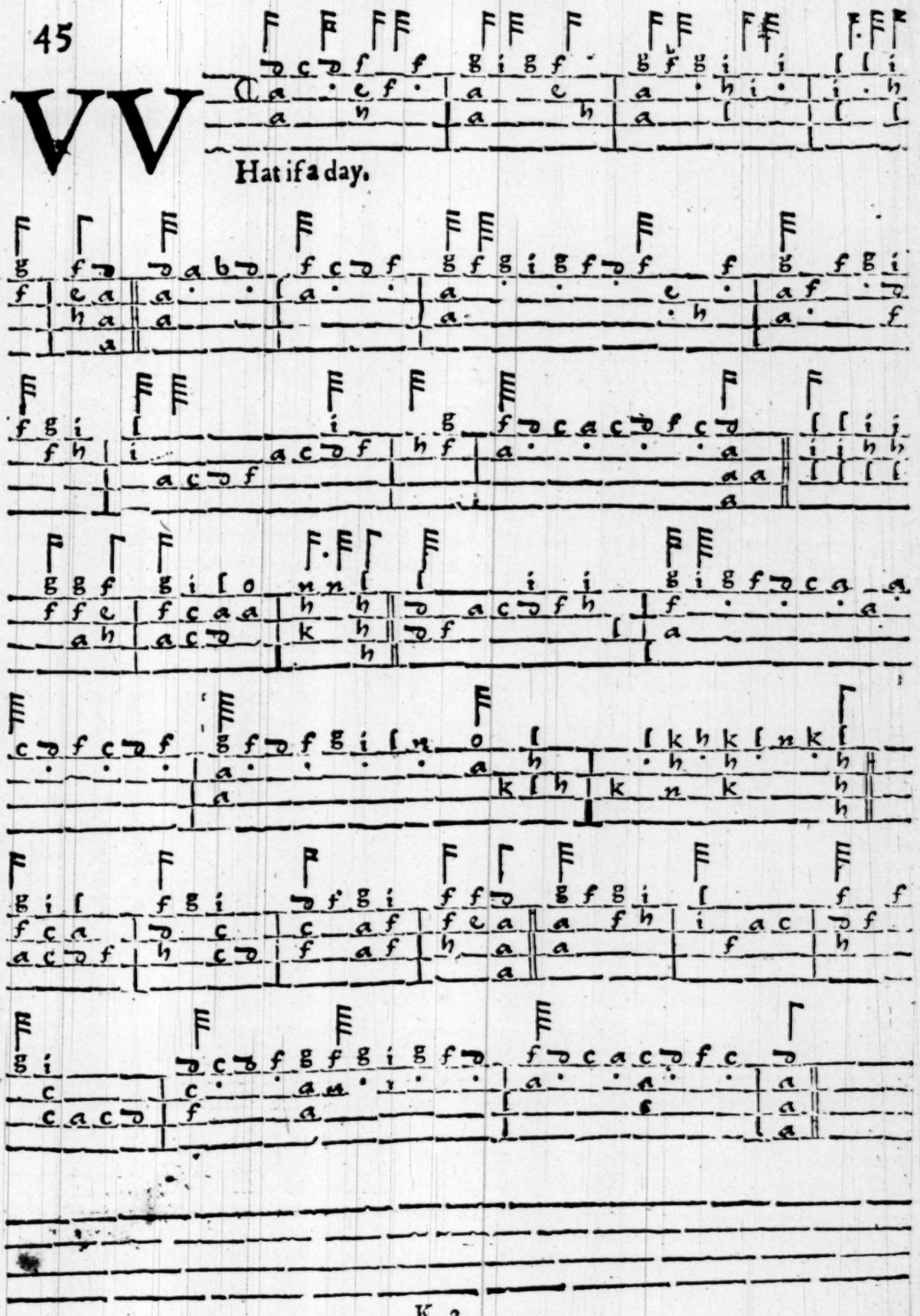
For two Cimbarens.

For two Citharens.



45

VVHat if a day.



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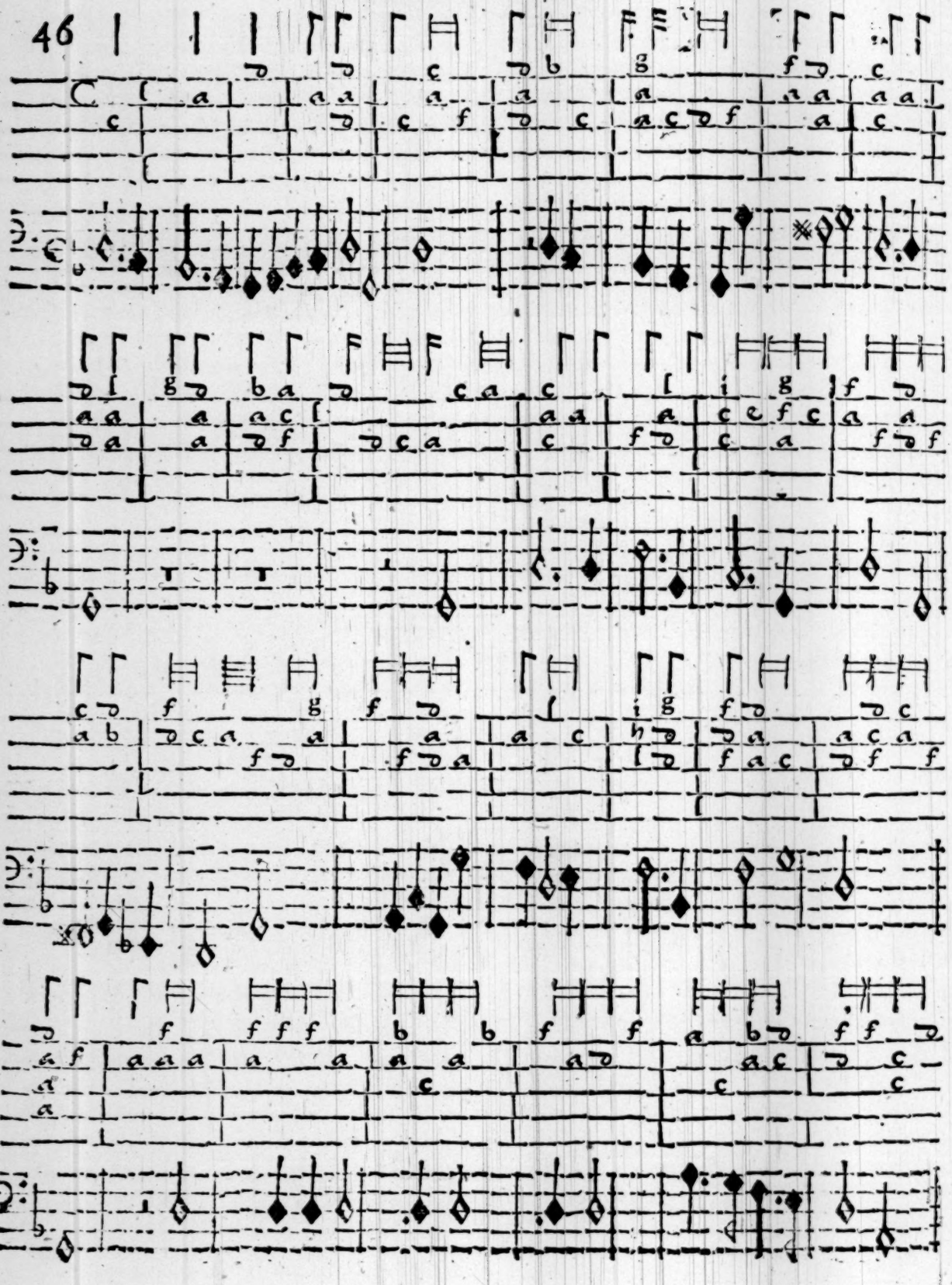

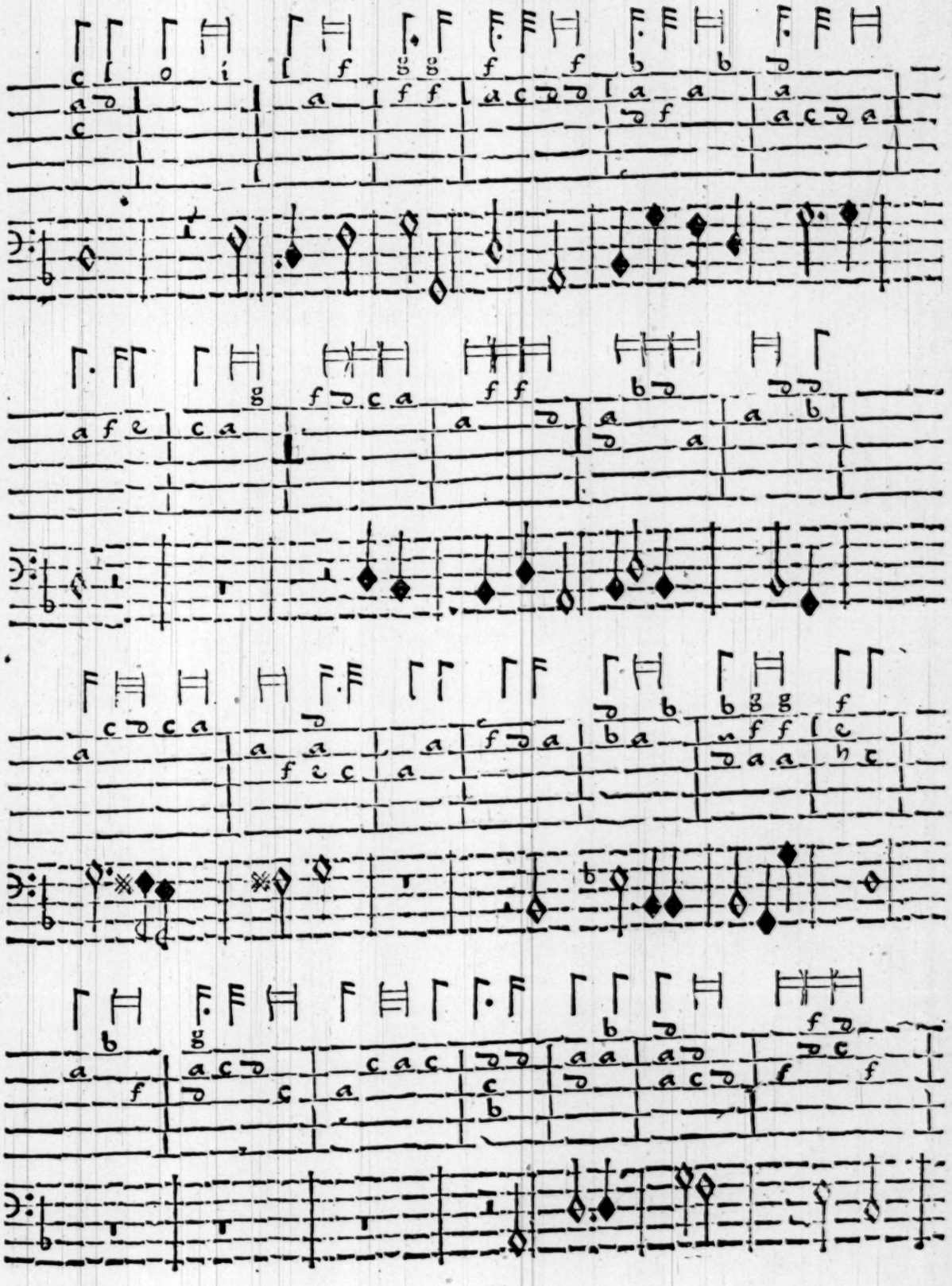

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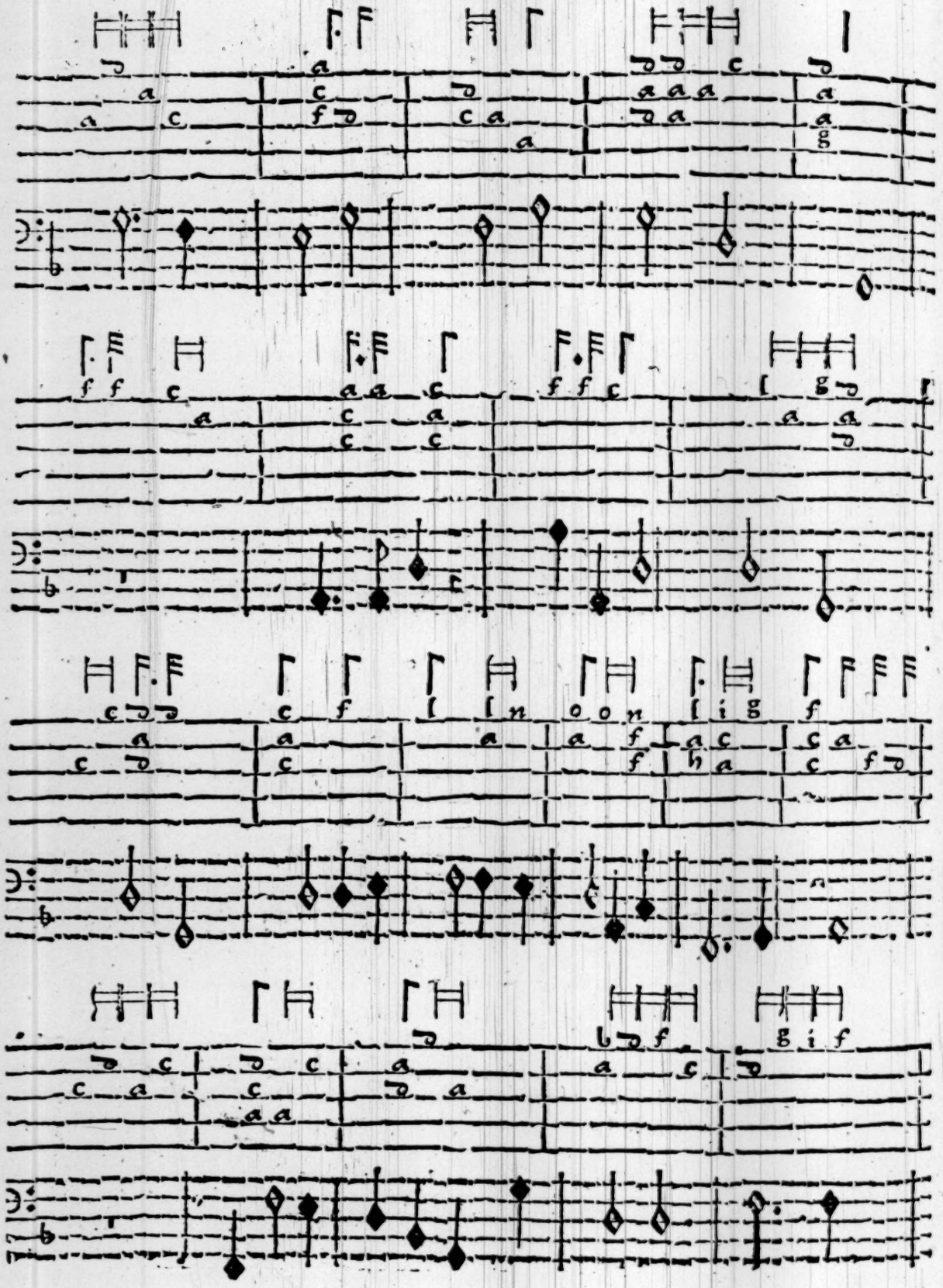

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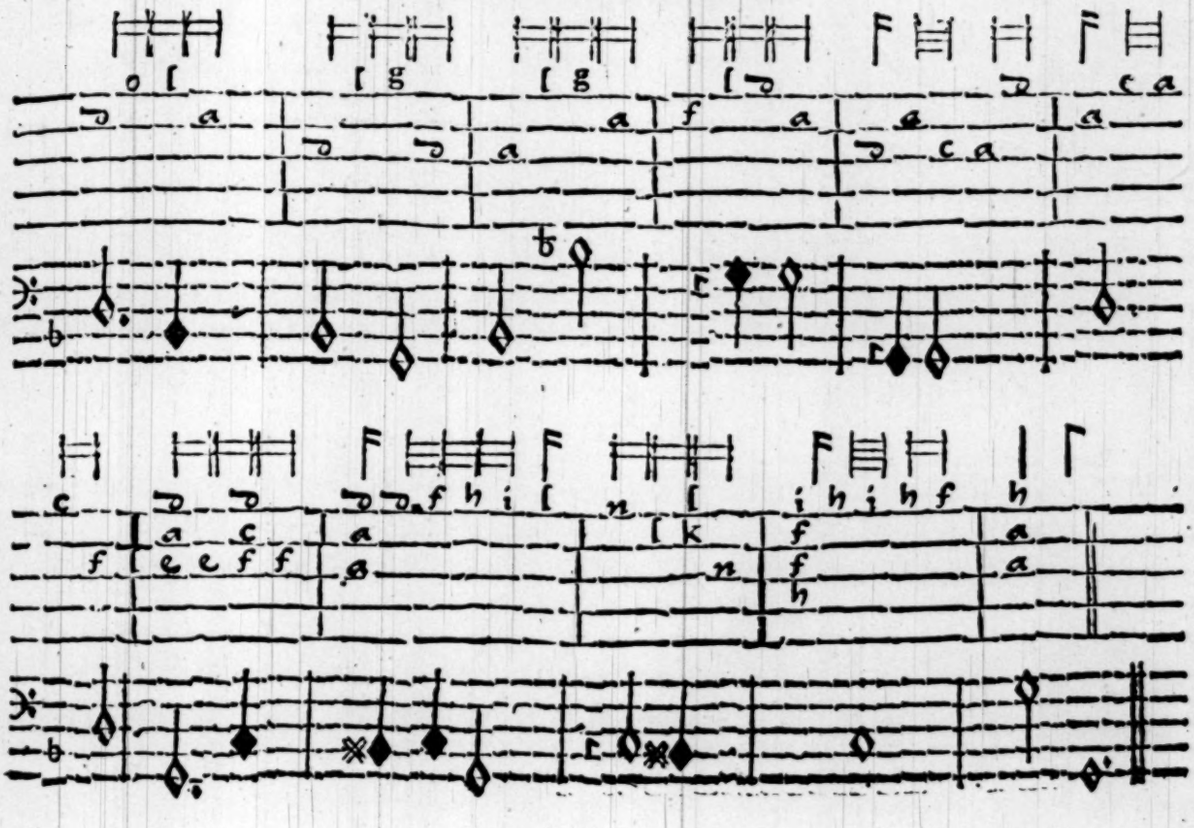

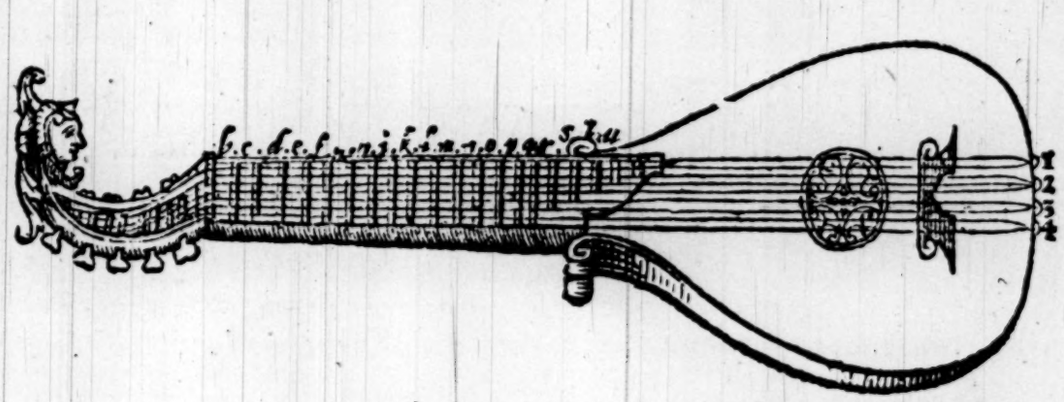

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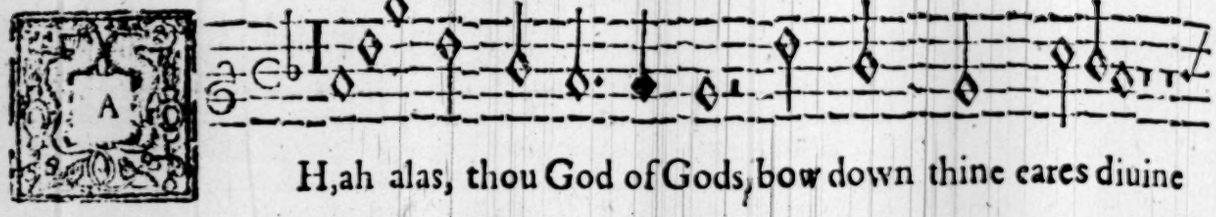
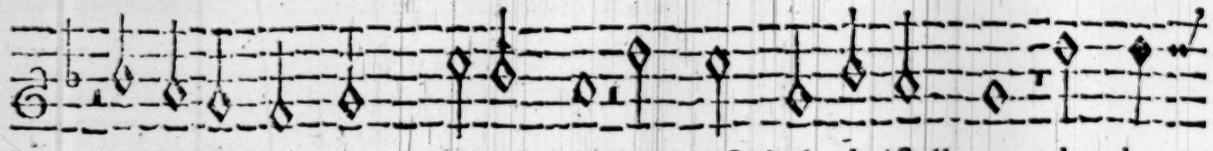


AH, ah alas, thou God of Gods, bow down thine eares diuine

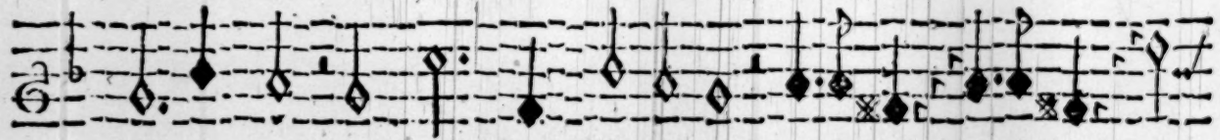


lend Ladies here warme water ſprings to moiſt their chriſtall eyne, that they

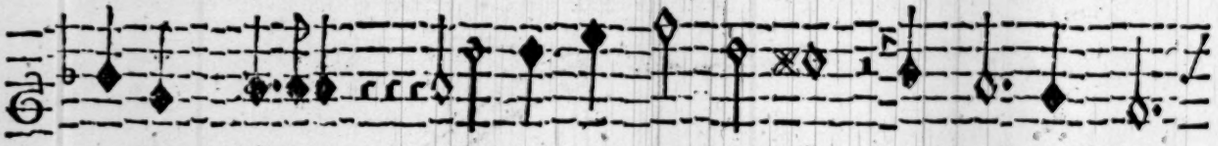
may weepe and waile and wring their hands with mee for death of my be-

loued ſonne, alas, alas, alas, alas, alas, loe dead is he, oh od thou that

guideſt the ghoſts and ſoules of them that are fled, ſend ſighes ſend ſobs, ſend

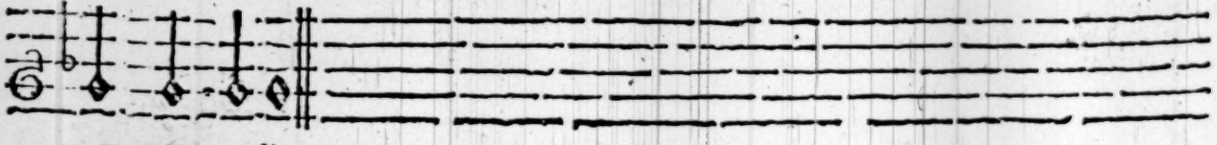


grieuous grones, and ſtrike poore Dauid dead: Abſalom, Abſalom, O



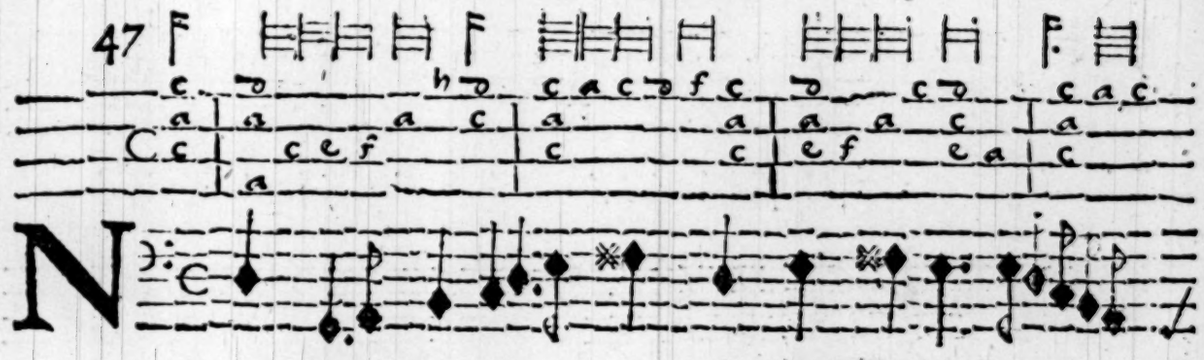
my ſonne Abſalom, my ſpirite with thine ſhall flie, come death moſt ſweet,

alas moſt ſweet, for now, for now for now, for now I craue to die to die, to die

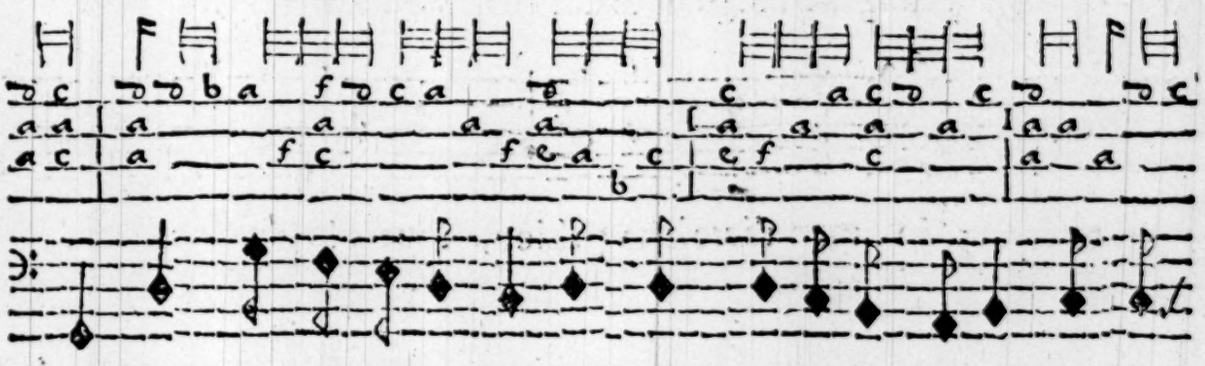


I craue to die,

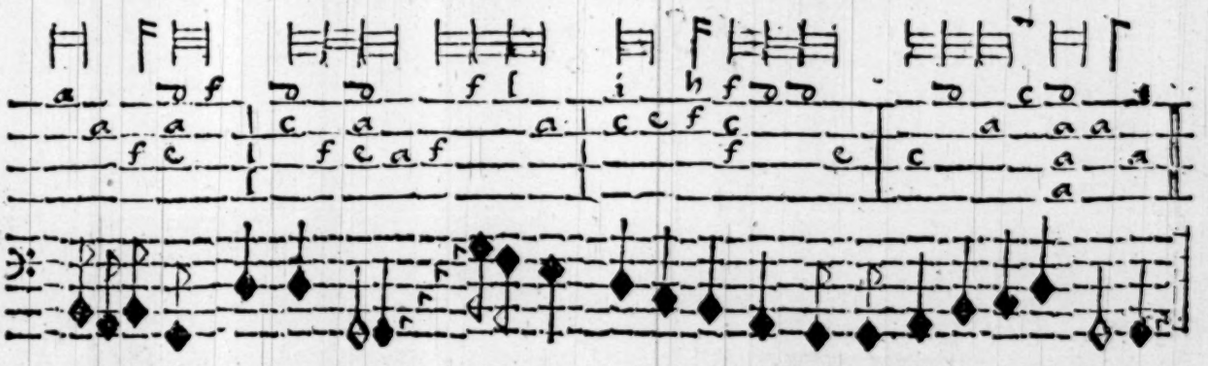
47



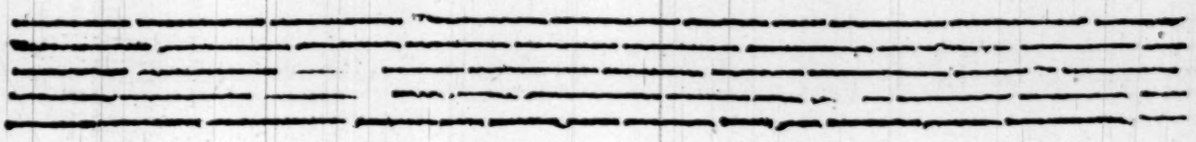
Now Cupid looke about thee, thy Kingdome is decay-



ing, young men beginne to flout thee, young men beginne to flout thee and



turne their deeds to saying, in men there is no passion, loue is so out of fashion.



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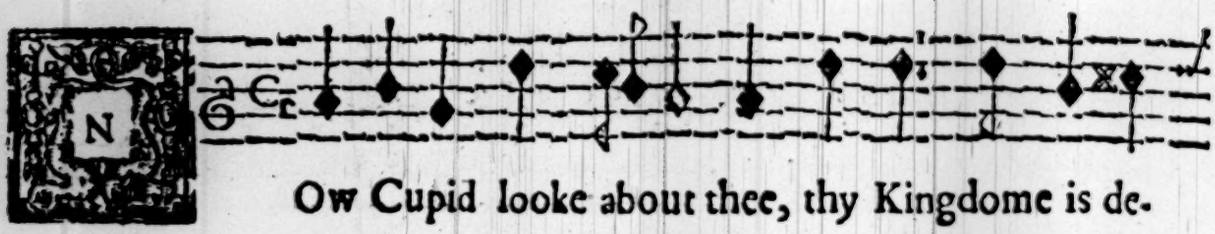
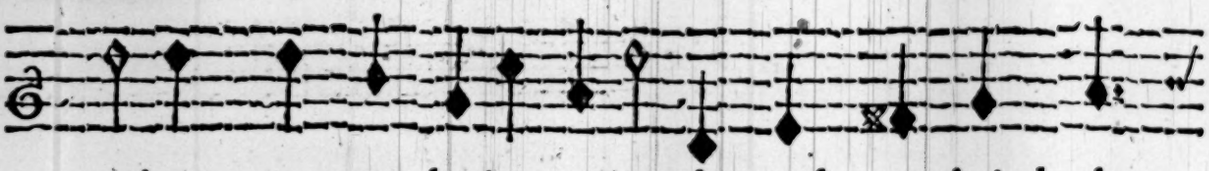
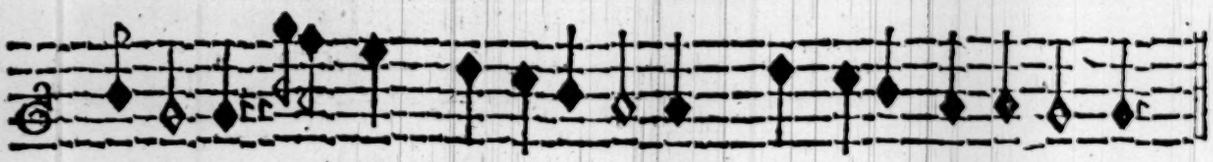


Ow Cupid looke about thee, thy Kingdome is de-

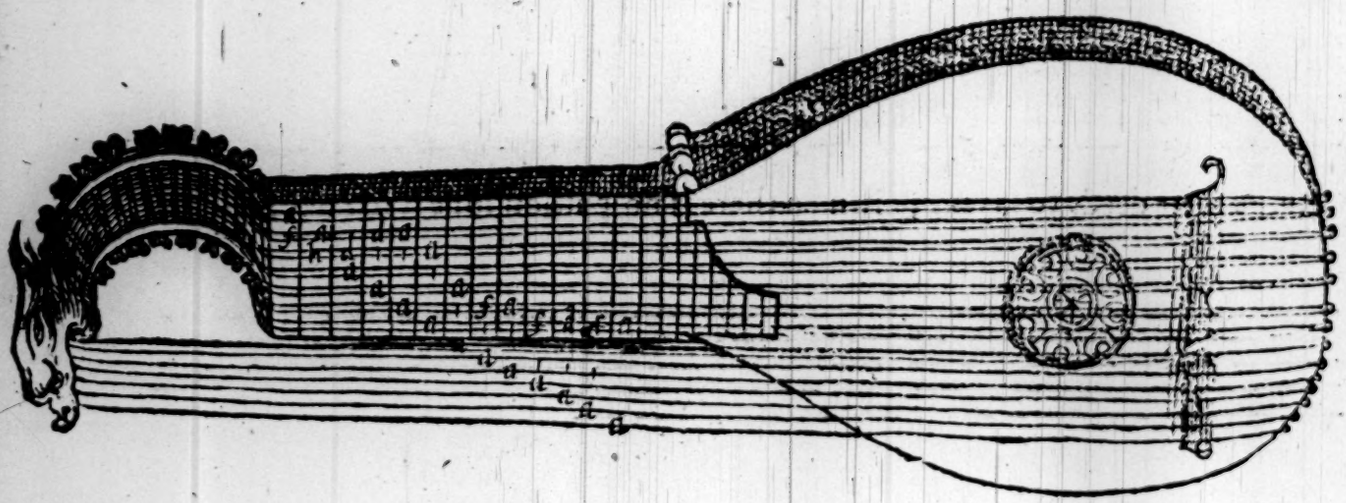


caying: young men beginne to flout thee, and turne their deedes



to saying, in men there is no passion, loue is so out of fashion.

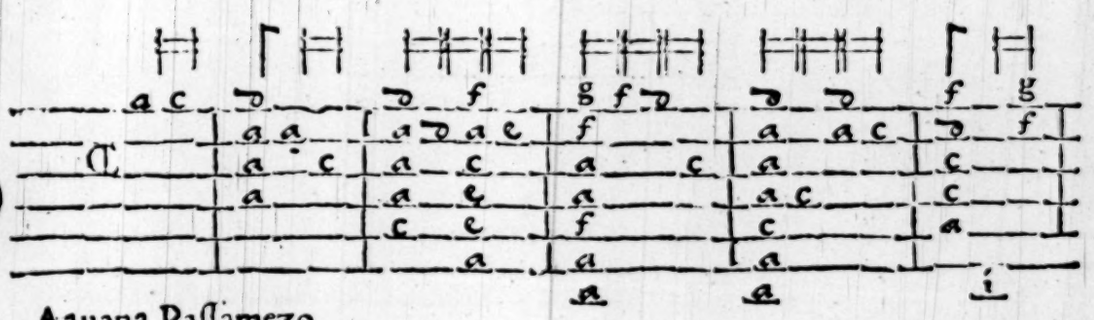
Here endeth the Lessons for foure course *of Stringes.*



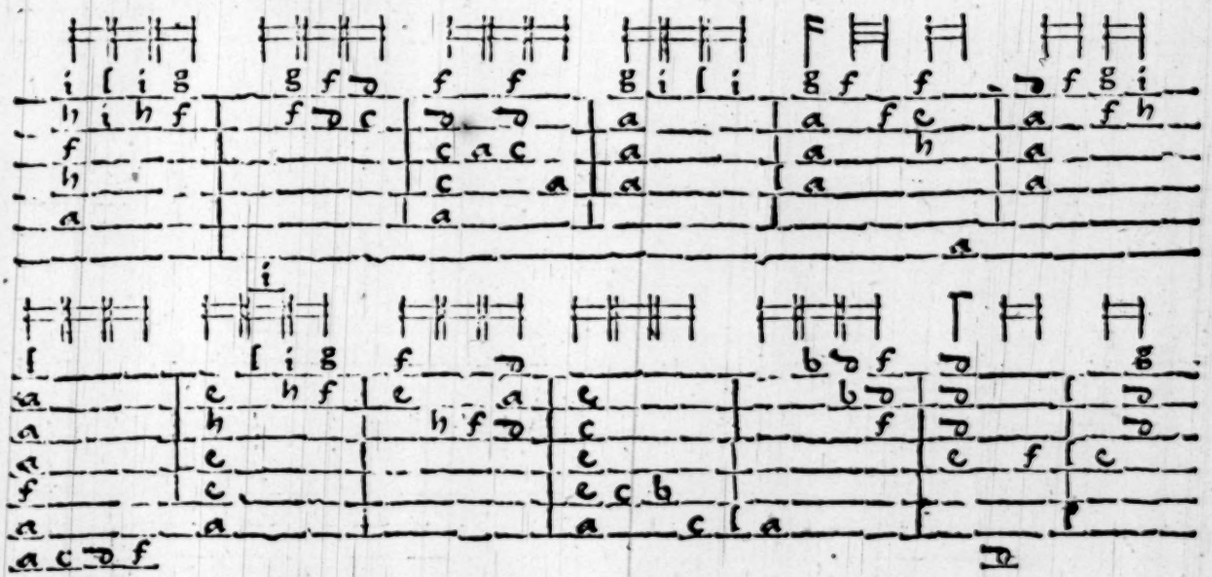
Here beginneth Lessons for

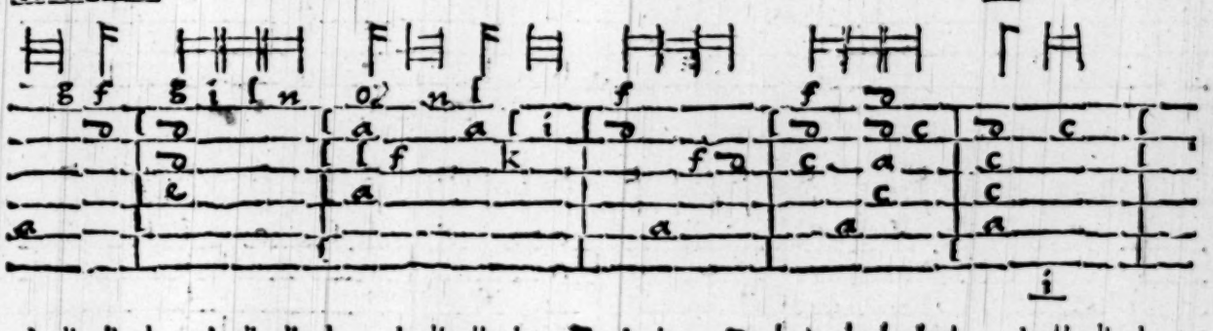
Foureteene Course of Stringes.

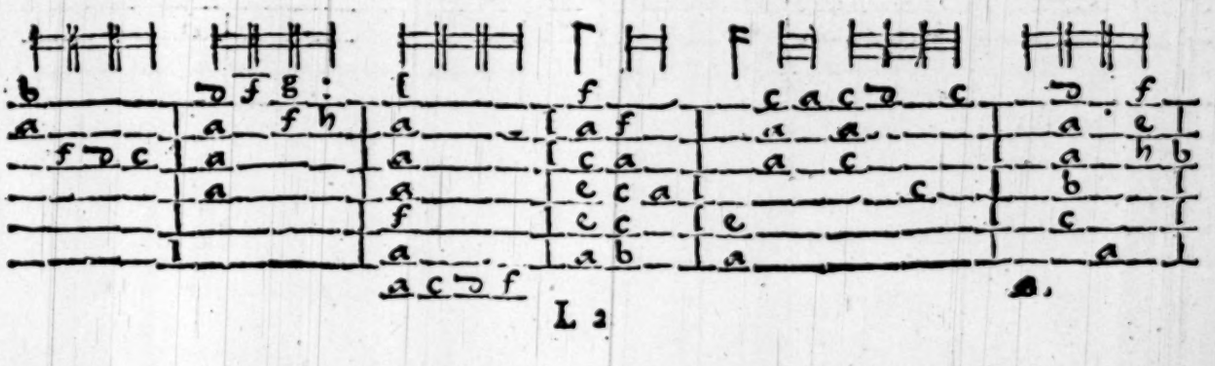
48

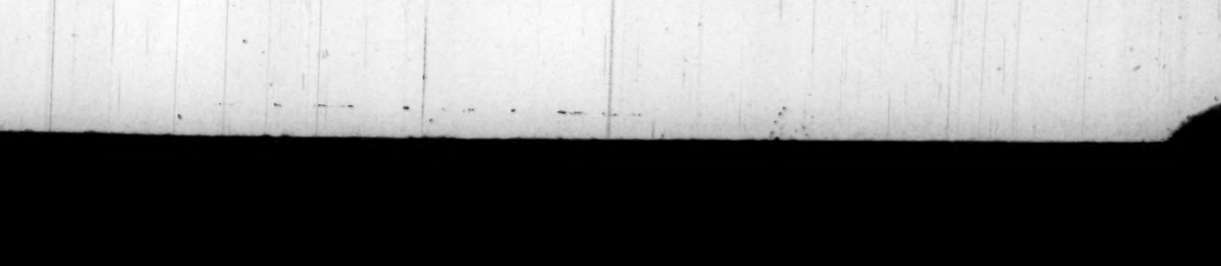


Pauana Passamezo.









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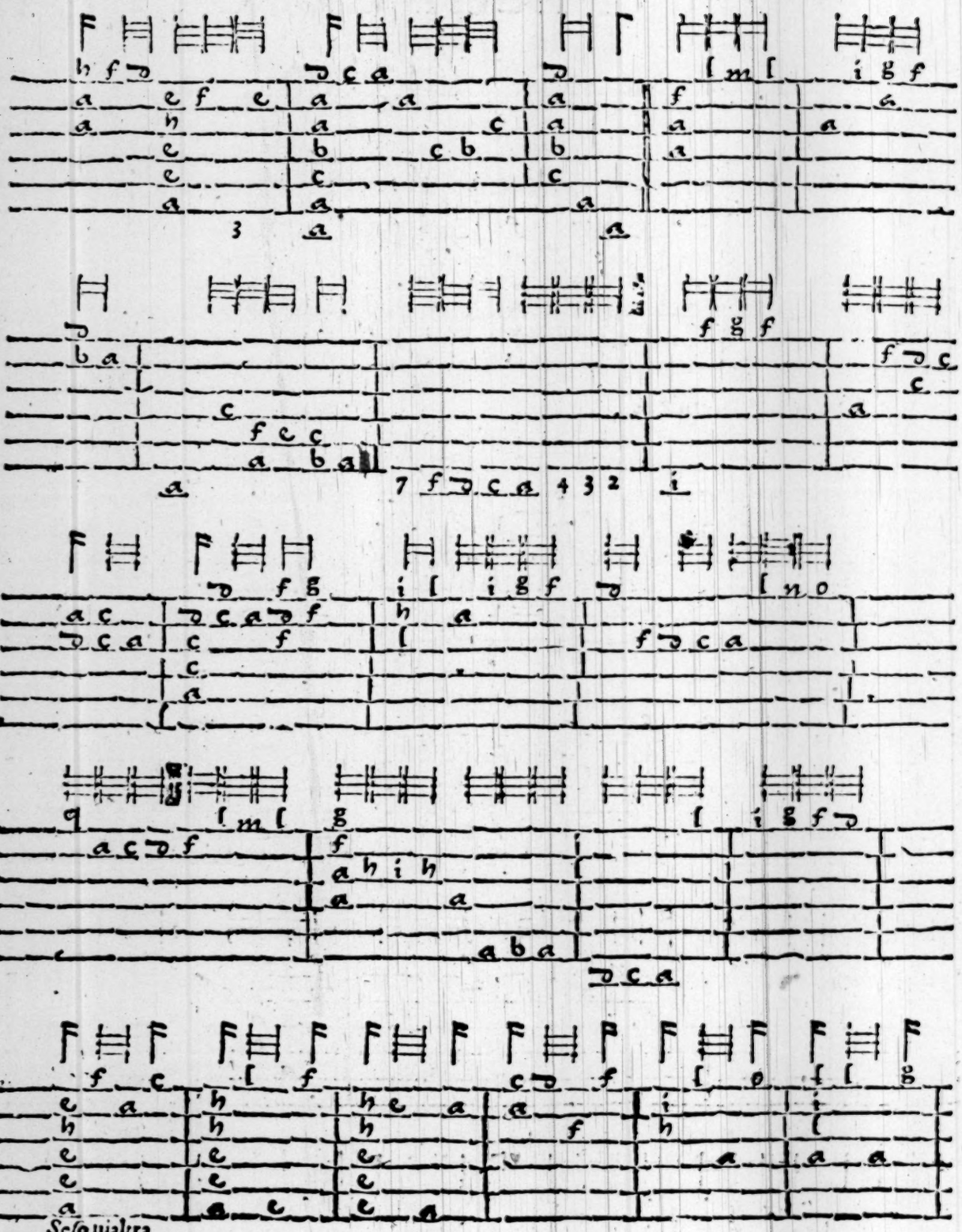

Sesquialtra

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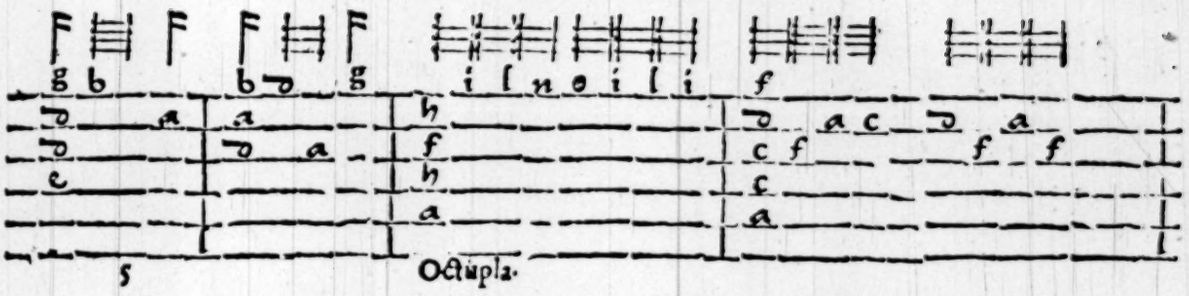

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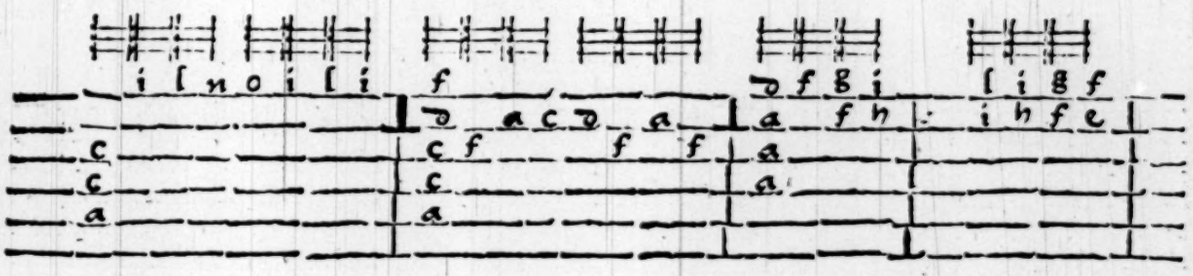

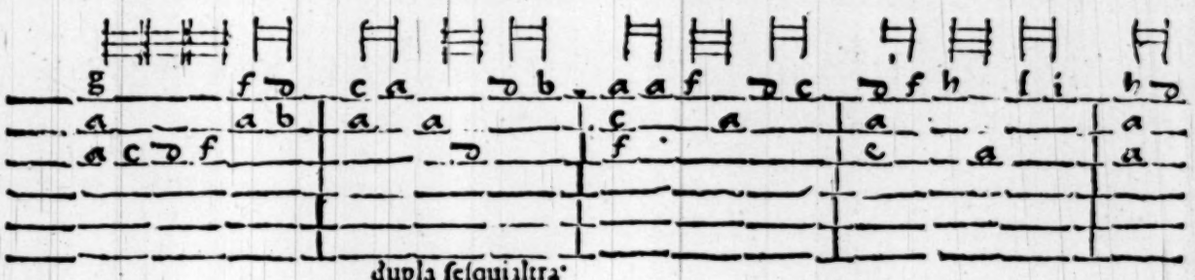

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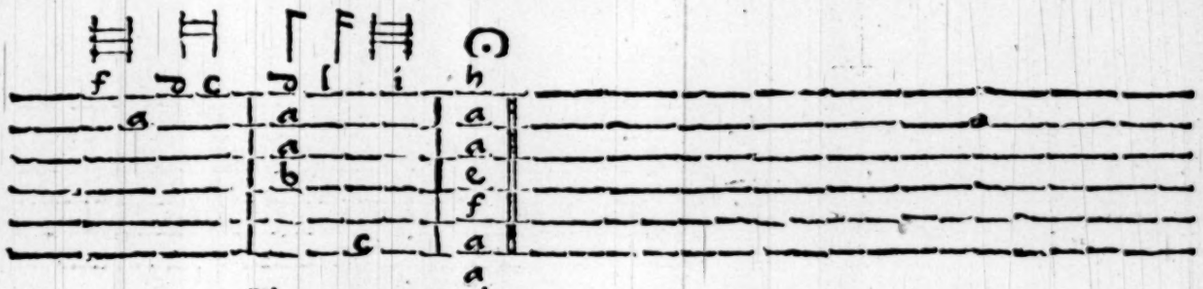

The common moode.

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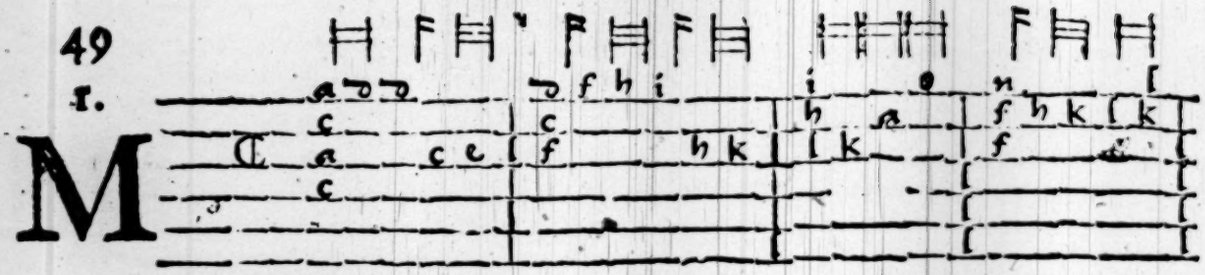

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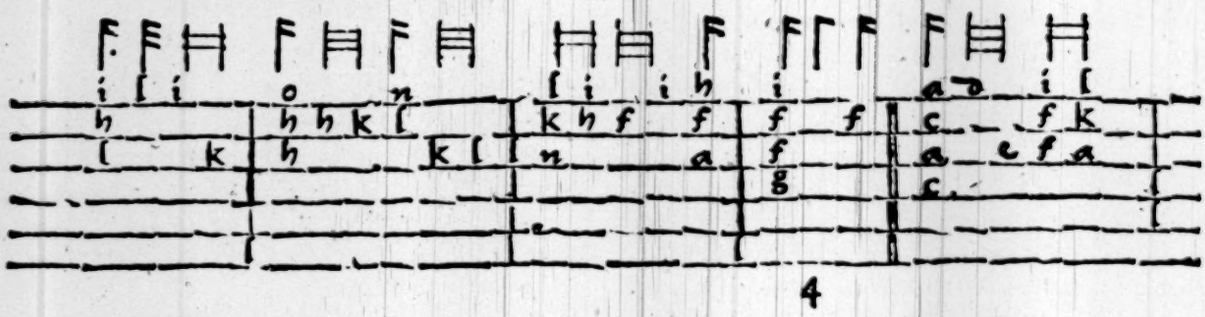

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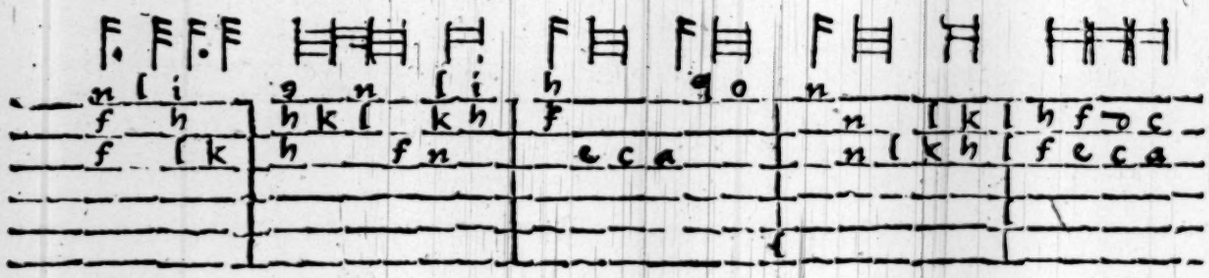

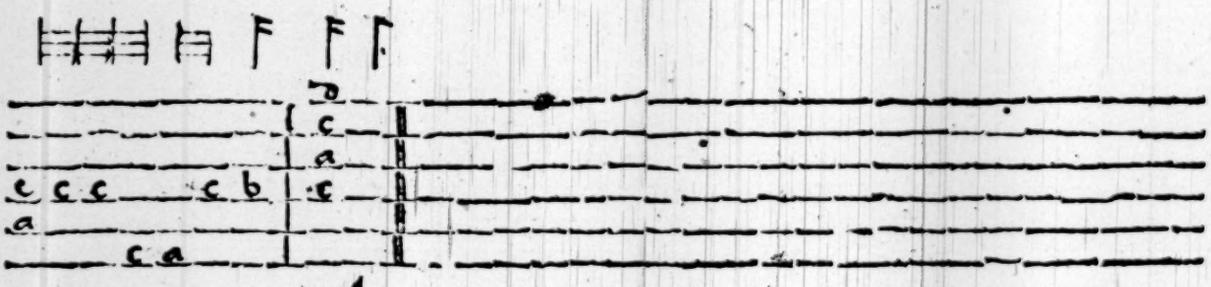

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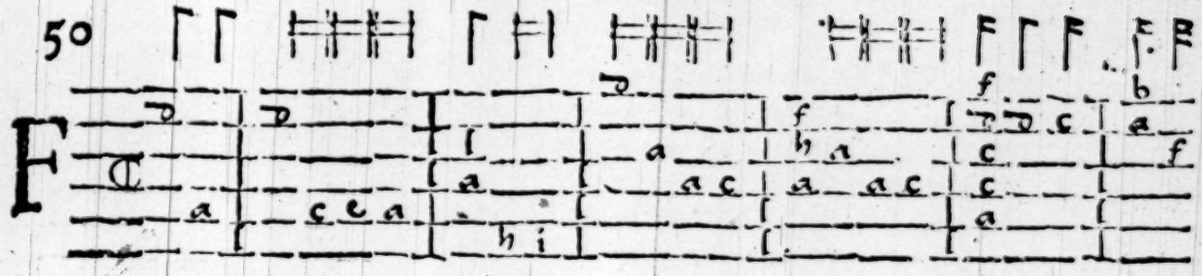

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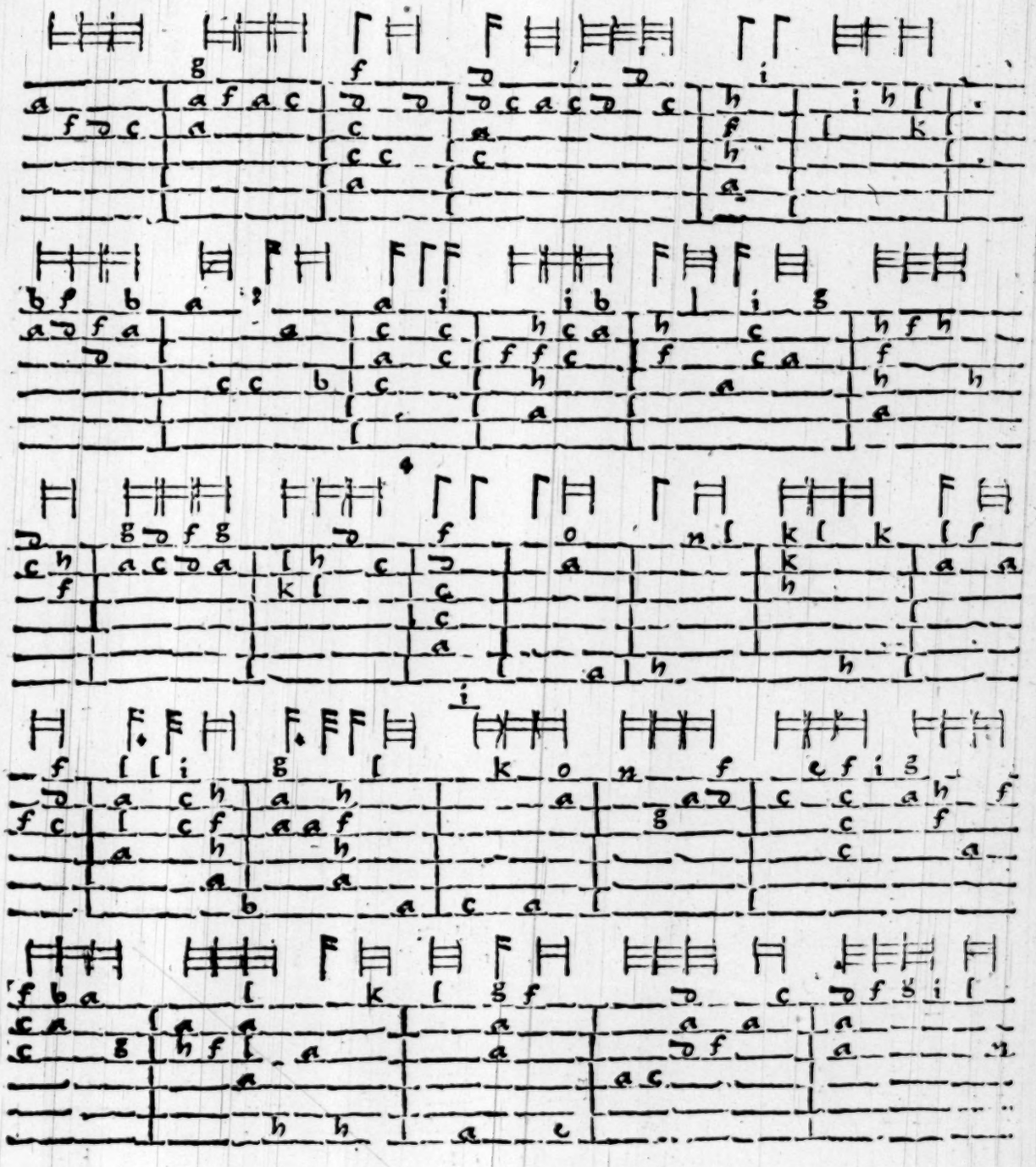

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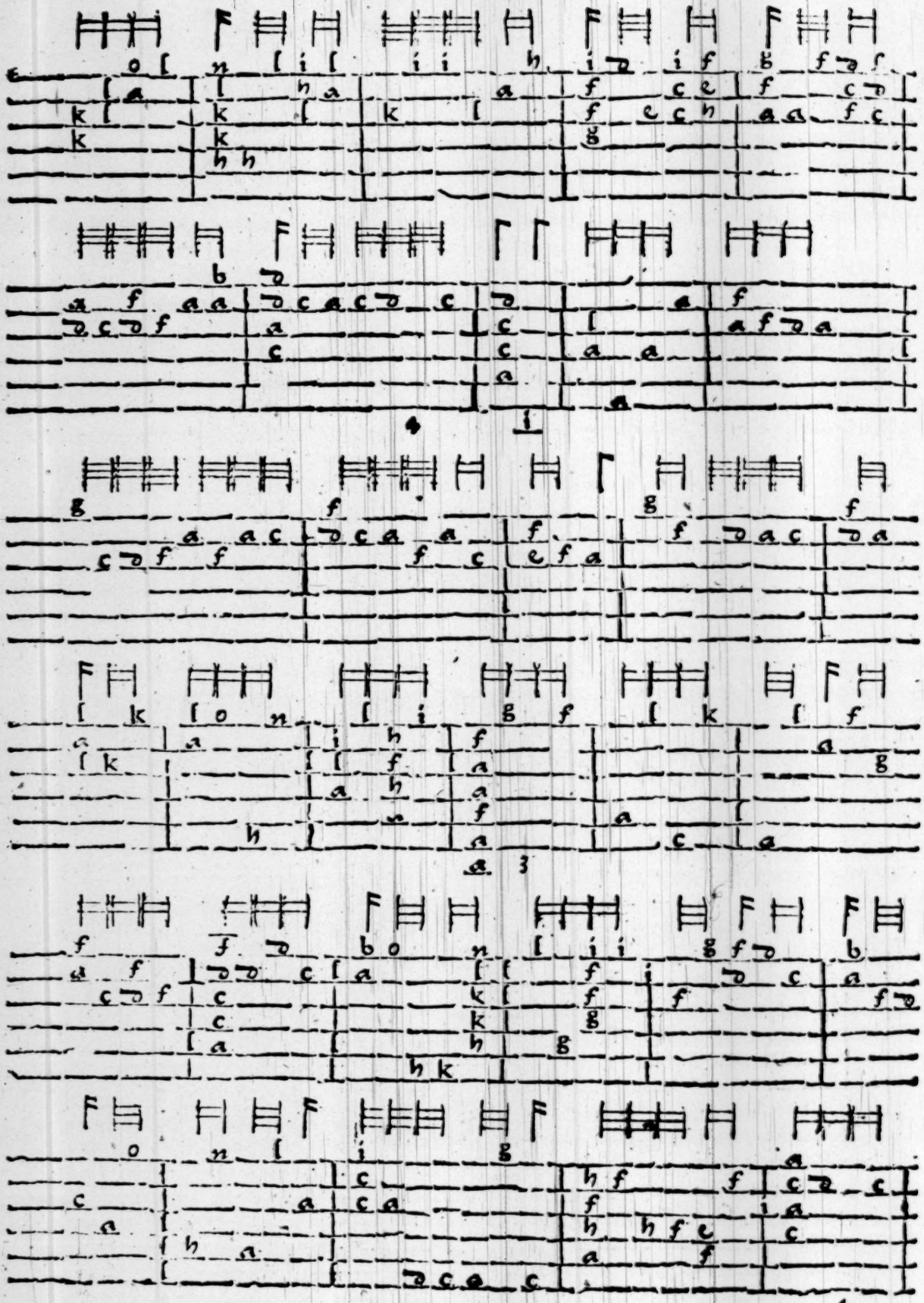

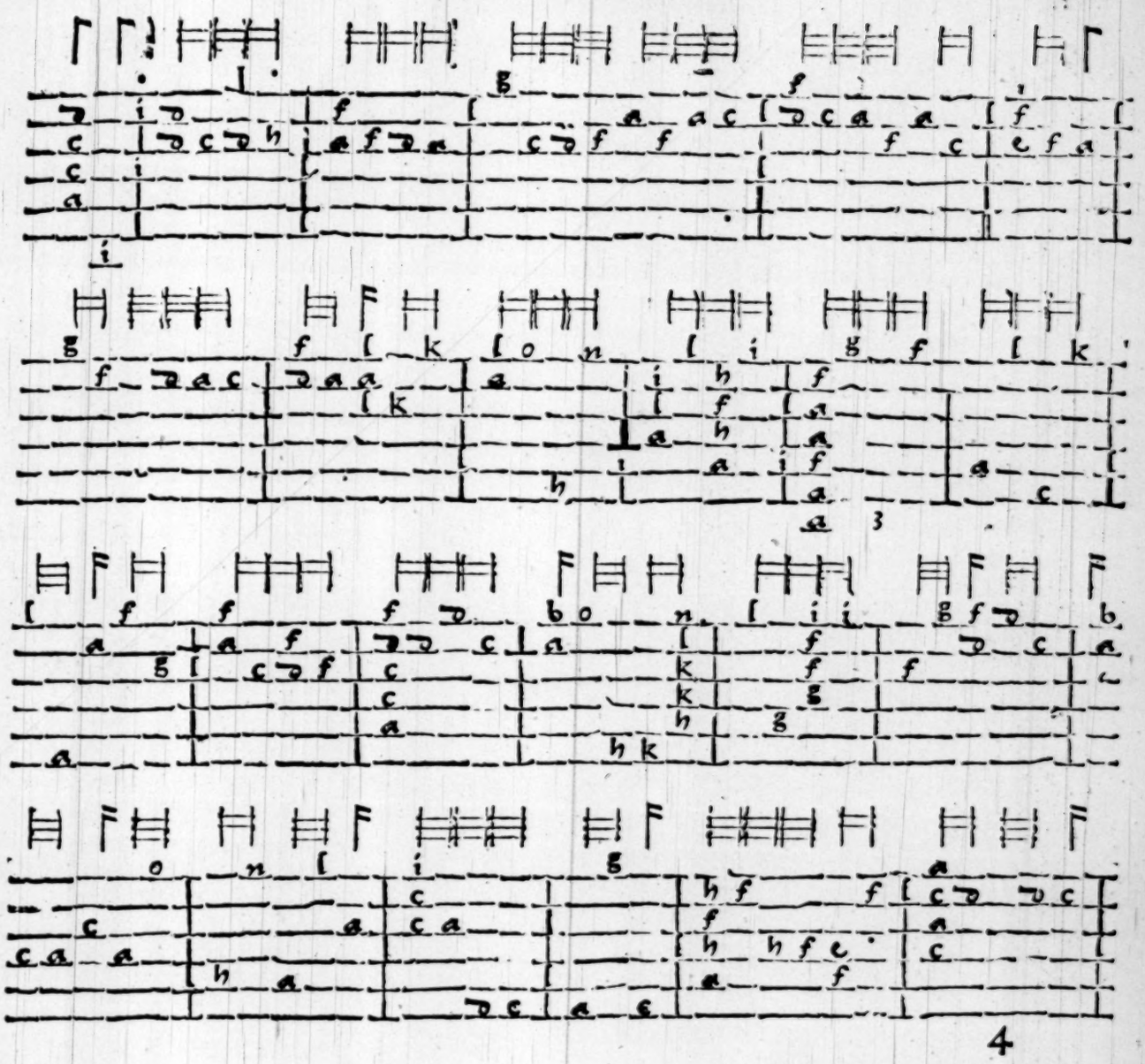

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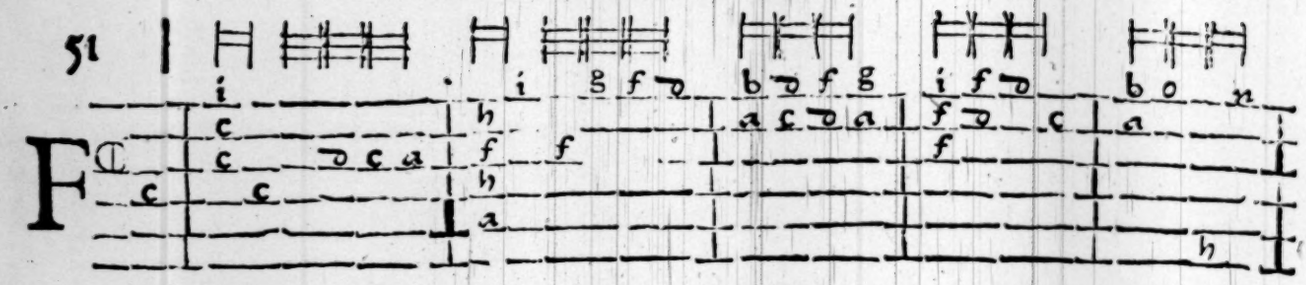

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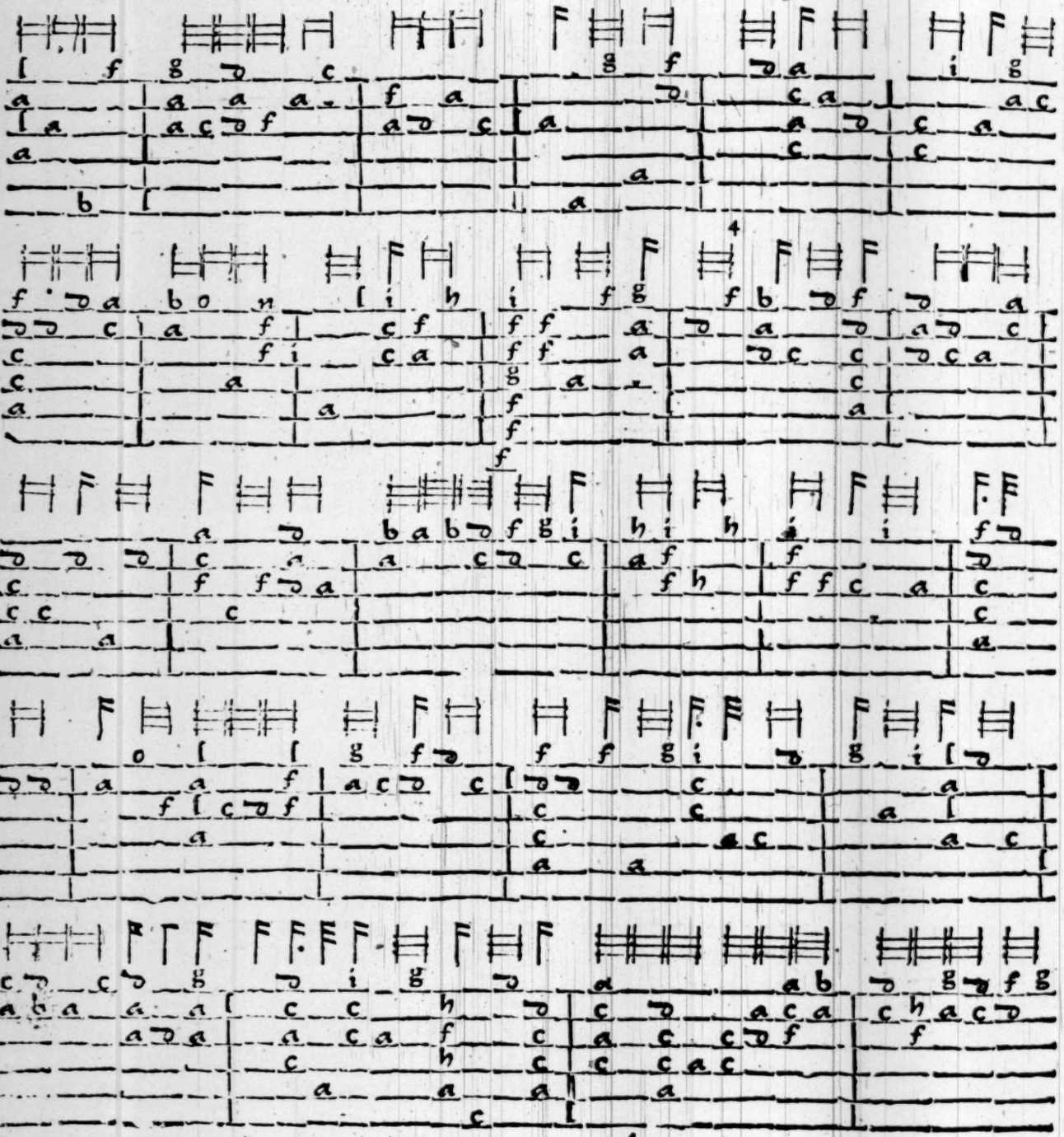

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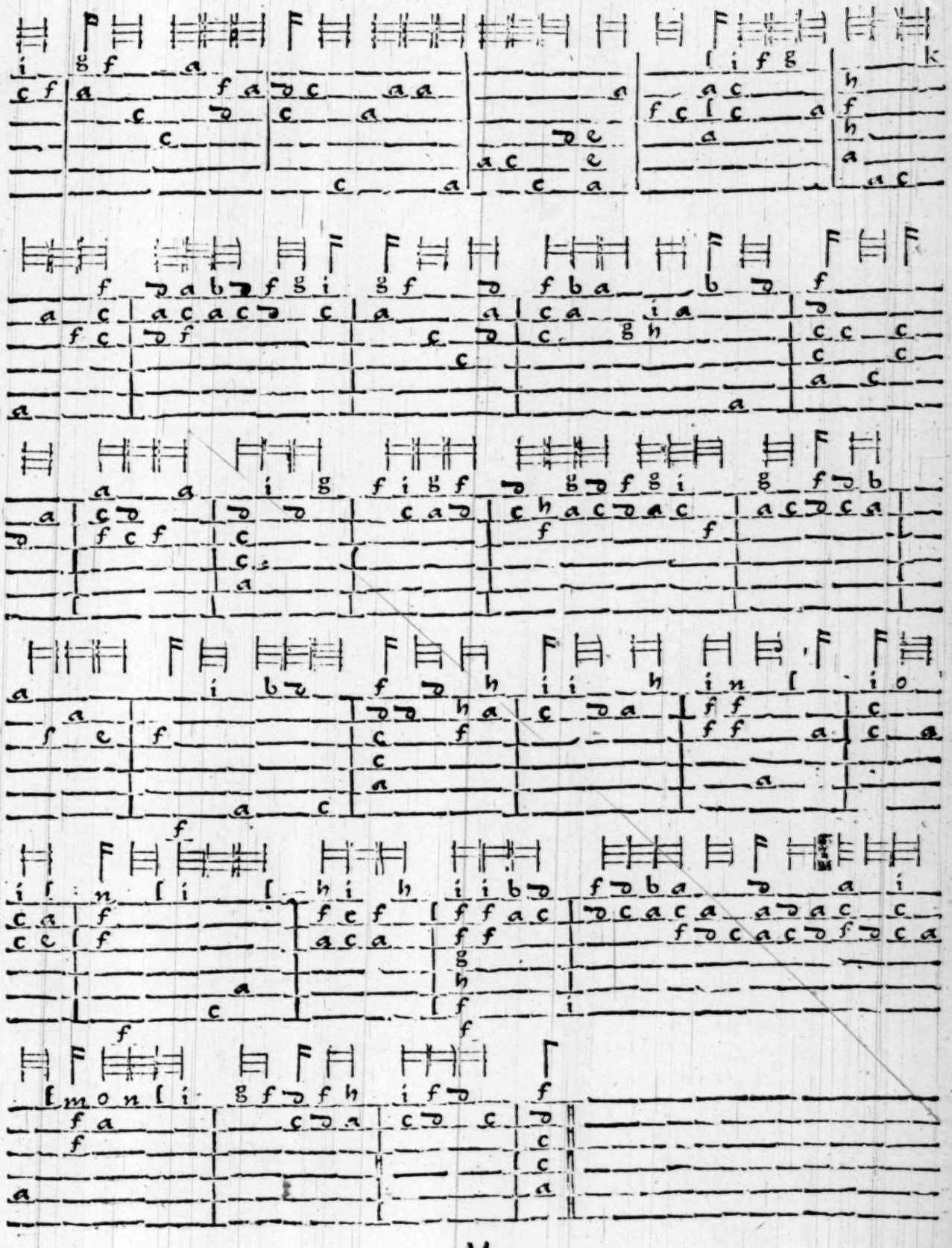

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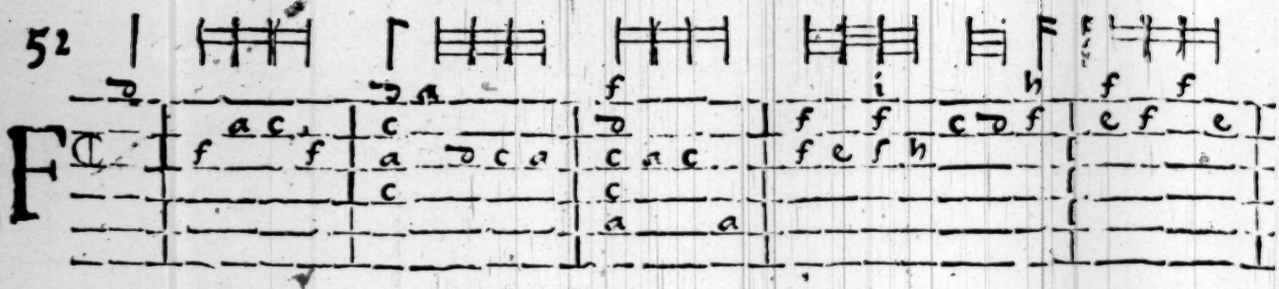

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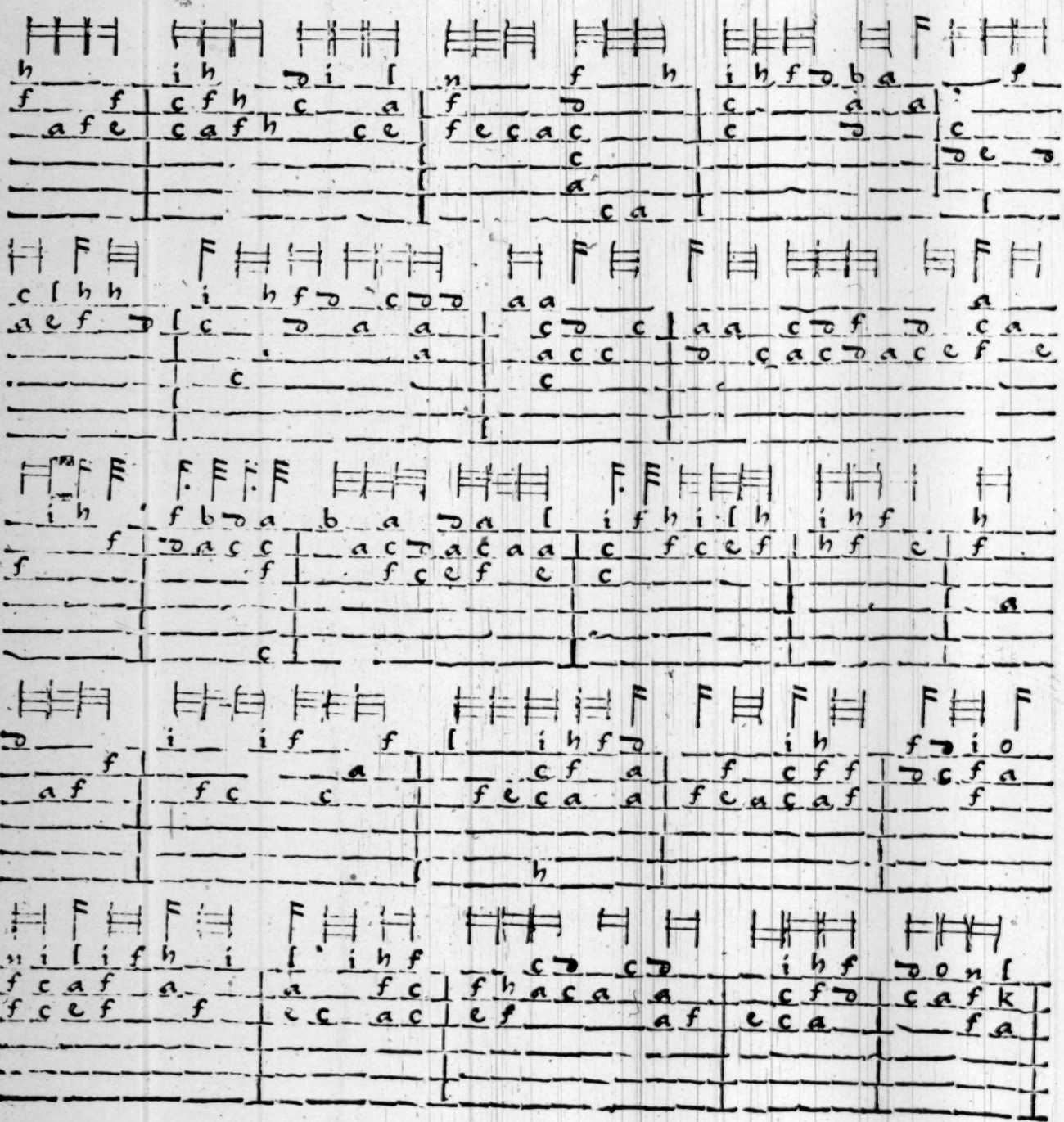

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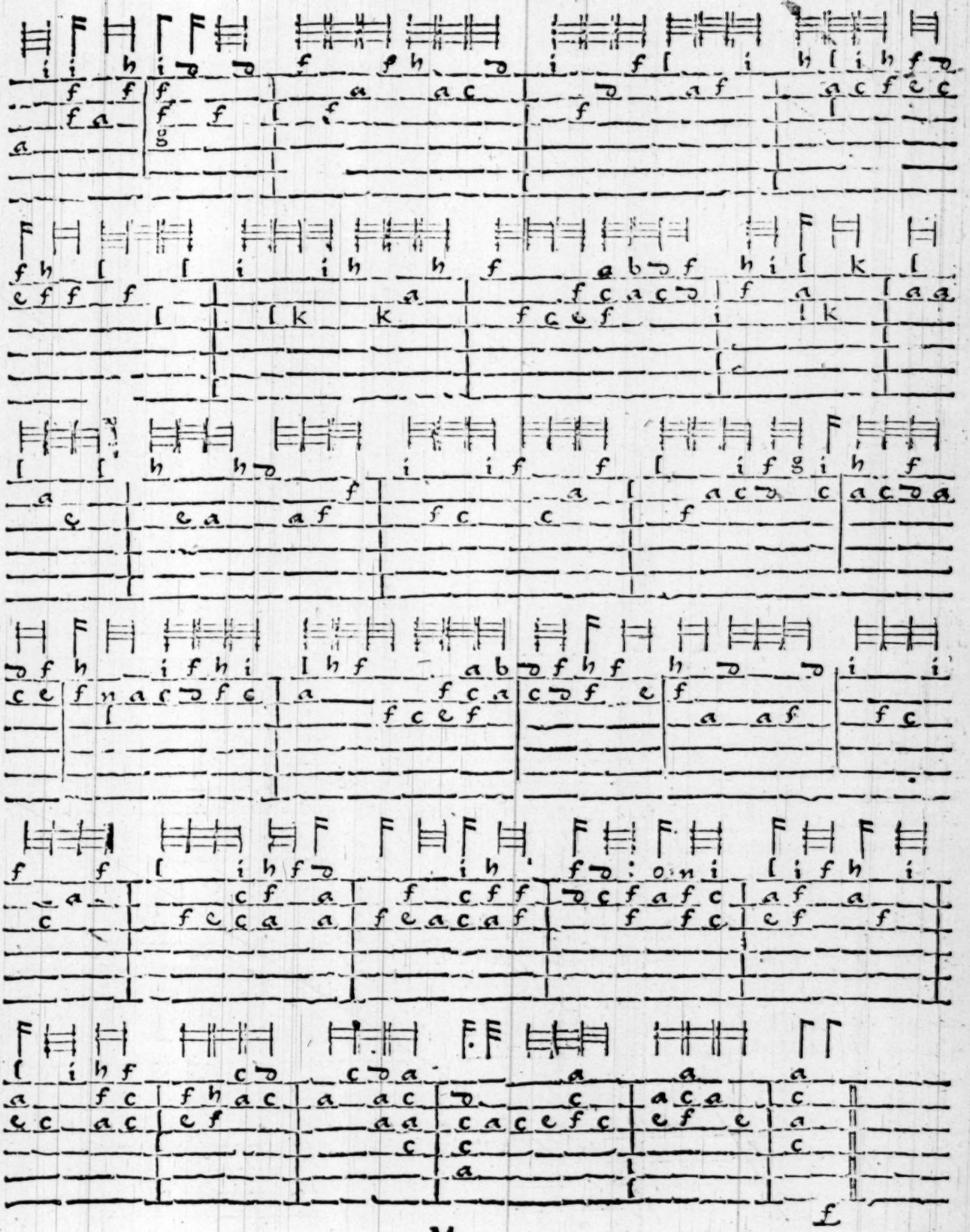

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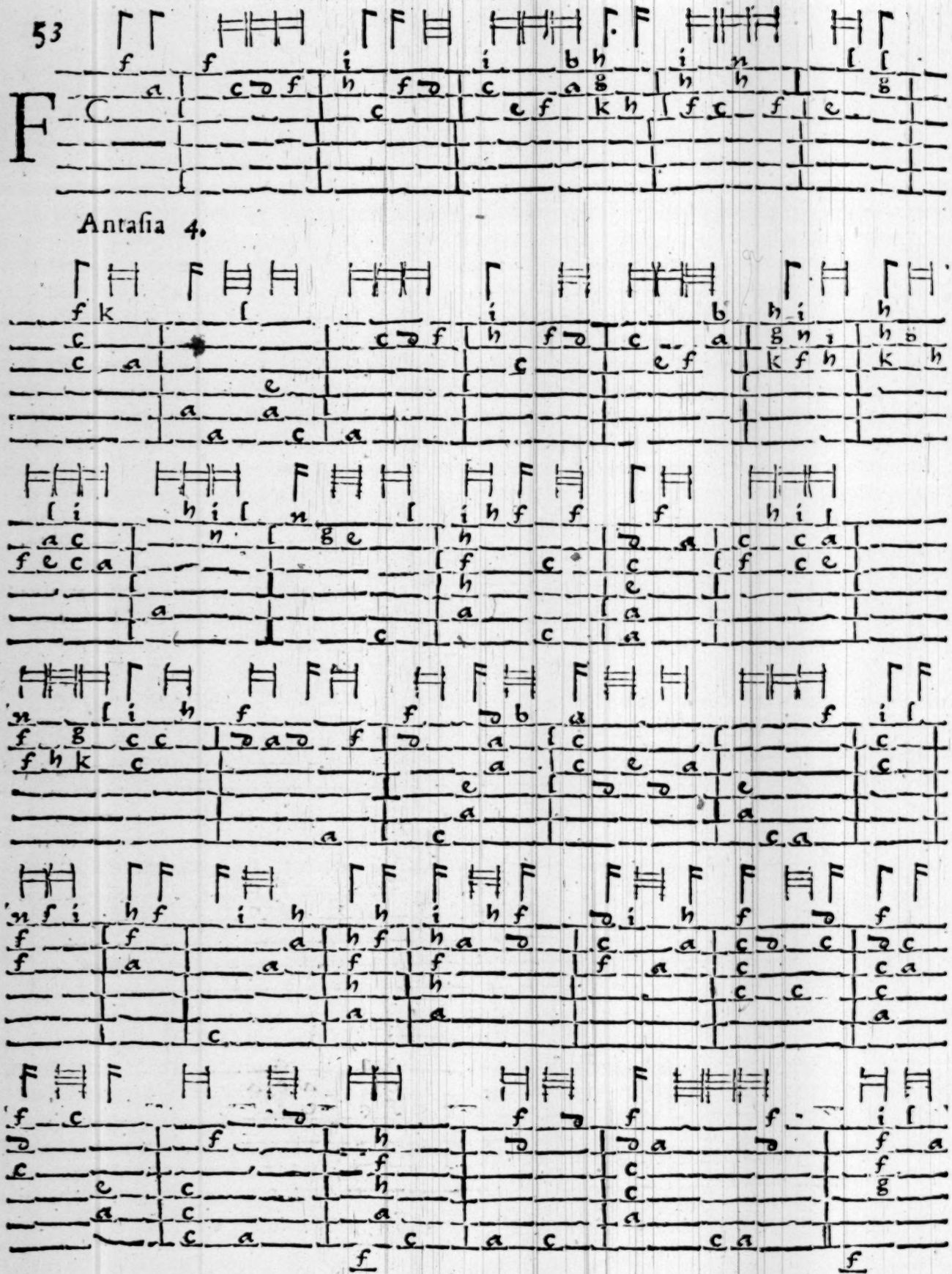

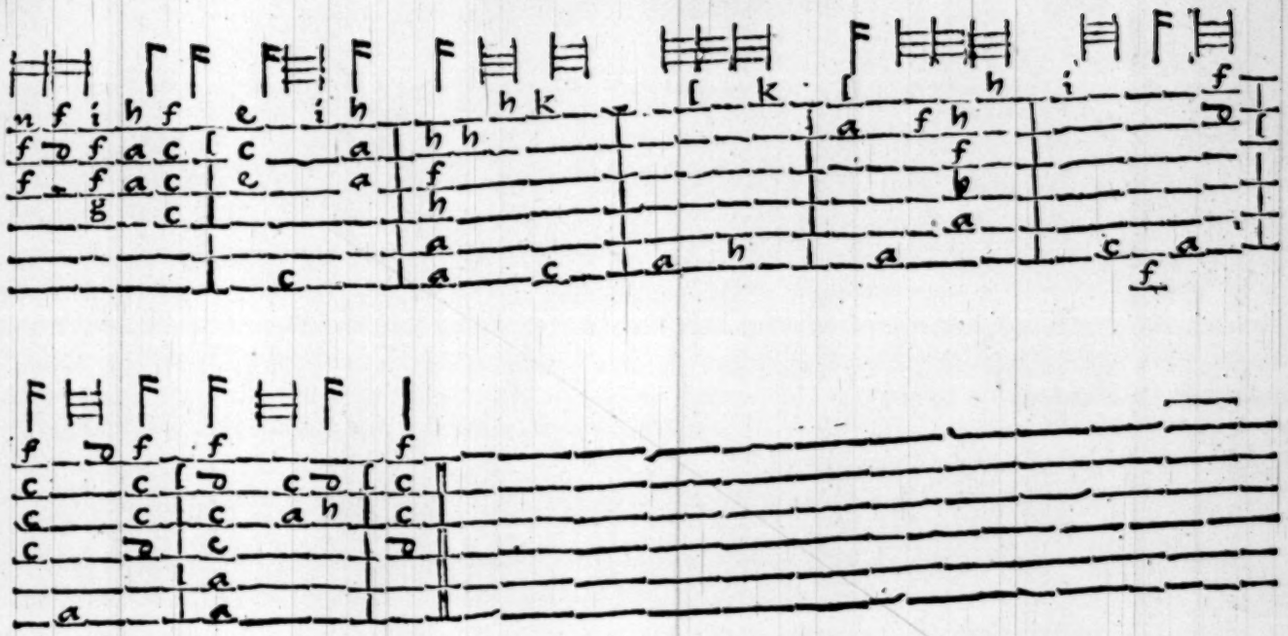

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